

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Presidential Candidate Rips Into Reagan

Gore: 'I'll Ban Anti-Gay Bias'

by Allen White

Democratic Presidential candidate Albert Gore said he would sign an executive order banning discrimination against gays if he becomes President. The remarks were made in response to questions by the Bay Area Reporter last Friday in San Francisco.

When asked if he had any suggestions on how to eliminate discrimination against gays and lesbians, he said, "We should eliminate such discrimination through, for an example, an executive order banning it in the Federal government and through leadership from a President who understands why such prejudice has to be a thing of the past."

He was in San Francisco on Friday, Feb. 20, to gather support for his candidacy. At a luncheon in the financial district, he used the opportunity to slam the Reagan Administration for its positions on fighting AIDS. "After 50,000 cases we have the



Sen. Albert Gore

(Photo: S. Savage)

appointment of a commission and the two leading members resigned in utter disgust at the lack of leadership and support from the Reagan Administration," he said. "What are they doing? I think future generations are going to look back on the early years of the AIDS epidemic and wonder if we even had a President and a Vice-President, it's been that bad."

It is this type of focus on issues that is starting to get Gore a significant amount of support by gays in Northern California. San Mateo County Sup. Tom Nolan said, "I think he is doing pretty well in San Francisco at this point. Todd Dickinson and Jerry Berg are prominent players in the local gay community. I think that there are several others who are here at this event, activists types."

In fact, the luncheon was a time for courting support. "I think maybe this will be their next choice after Paul Simon."

(Continued on page 2)



A royal pose

(Photo: S. Martin)

New Royalty

Steven, Lily Elected Emperor, Empress

by Allen White

Steven Rascher and Lily Street are the new Emperor and Empress of San Francisco. The announcement was made to a crowd of nearly 1,000 jammed into a ballroom last Saturday night for Coronation '88 at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel.

Rascher becomes San Francisco's 16th Emperor and Lily Street is the 23rd Empress. With 652 votes, Lily Street became the largest vote getter ever for a San Francisco Empress. Candidate Vinnie scored 405 for second place and Patsy ReKline had 68 votes.

Steven Rascher was in a closer race with 493 votes to beat out Stanley Boyd with 440 and Billy Ray coming in with 191.

(Continued on page 19)

Achtenberg Blocks Party Endorsement

Challenges Burton To Debate

by Dennis McMillan

Challenger Roberta Achtenberg successfully blocked the endorsement of veteran John Burton by the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee at a stormy meeting last Sunday, Feb. 21. Seventy percent of the votes of committee members was needed for endorsement. Achtenberg secured 32 percent to deny Burton the nod. It was the first time that the party central committee could make endorsements, following a recent California Supreme Court ruling.

Achtenberg is running against Burton for the 16th. Assembly seat vacated by now-Mayor Art Agnos. Burton, earlier in his political career, had held the 16th. A.D. seat himself. The election is set for April 12.

Achtenberg considered her coup a tremendous victory.

Burton supporter Rep. Nancy Pelosi also claimed a win, saying that "John got two-thirds of the vote."

Achtenberg said she saw the Democratic party learning a valuable lesson as to "what it should and should not do with its energies and resources and people." She exhorted, "The system should not be perverted to prefer one legitimate life-long Democrat over another. That's what a Democratic primary is for; that's the people's choice to make."

Achtenberg backers hope to

hold the line and prevent the party from endorsing at the state Democratic convention in Palm Springs next month.

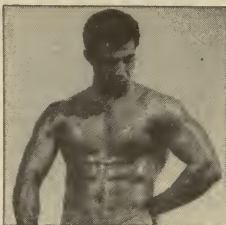
Conspicuously absent from the meeting was John Burton, who in the words of attendee Achtenberg, "had a surrogate speak for him. I think it was a rebuke, and it was a victory for us."

DEBATE CHALLENGE

Just five days prior to the committee meeting, Achtenberg had challenged Burton to a public debate. The League of Women Voters had hoped to sponsor a debate between the only two contenders for Agnos' vacated seat in the state Assembly, and invited local television stations to broadcast the event.

The Achtenberg camp says
(Continued on page 20)

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Sen. Albert Gore with (l. to r.) Todd Dickenson, Tom Nolan, John Kouba, and Ted Reitz
(Photo: S. Savage)

Gore

(Continued from page 1)

Nolan said. Among those attending from the gay community were Democratic County Committee Chair Carole Migden, a backer of Paul Simon, and respected political consultants Dick Pabich and Jim Rivaldo were among the invited guests at the luncheon.

"I am very strongly considering his candidacy for several reasons," said Dickinson. "First, his AIDS policy is the most well thought out and extensive policy I've seen. It covers all of the issues that are very important to us in terms of research money, in terms of education money, in testing and in terms of the failures of the Reagan Administration to do anything."

As for his position on AIDS testing, Gore said, "90 percent of the political rhetoric has had to do with testing when that is really about 5 percent of the problem. In rare cases testing can be justified, but to do it to low risk groups and to do it on a random basis, that's crazy and it's a waste of resources and what do you do when you find someone has the virus?"

He continued: "We should be practicing prevention and safe sex all the way around the country because of the threat of the AIDS epidemic and so testing should be confined to those rare cases where there should be mandatory testing. I think it's fair for people (to take the test) who have to immigrate and declare they are free of any contagious disease. If you have prisoners in a place where you have a plan to protect those who do not have the disease. Cases of that kind are the exception. But to have it as a condition for a marriage license, that is absurd."

"Back early when all the candidates were asked about that I said, 'No, that's wrong as a condition for a marriage license.' Because the number of false positives will outnumber the people who actually have it. It's crazy."

LEADERSHIP

Gore stressed that "We need leadership on AIDS. It is disgraceful that we have now had 50,000 cases of AIDS in the United States and nothing has been done by the federal government. Great Britain with a conservative like Margaret Thatcher saw 300 cases of AIDS and immediately launched a comprehensive provision and education program. We need research on a crash basis to speed up the finding of a cure. We need a comprehensive prevention and edu-

cation campaign. We need to restructure the health care financing system to cope with the problems that are being experienced. We need leadership on the sensitive area of testing and confidentiality of the date."

He concluded, "We need a comprehensive approach and as president I will guarantee we will have an all out assault on the AIDS epidemic."

For several people, Gore is perceived as an "electable" Democrat. "I am concerned that we haven't been able to elect a Democratic President in the last five tries, save Jimmy Carter," said Dickinson. "Electing a Democrat is key and paramount in November. I believe that when it comes to California it will be Gore, Jackson and Dukakis."

Nolan added, "I think he has a very progressive record on social justice and all the issues that are important to us. I think when they look at that and at the second thing, electability. I think the guy just might be able to do this. My bottom line is to get a Democrat elected."

Gore himself says, "I believe this is a fight for the future of the Democratic Party. Can we ignore the fact that we have lost four out of the five last elections? Twice by a score of 49 to 1, another time by 47 to 3. My candidacy is different."

IS JESSE ELECTABLE?

Dickinson compared Gore with other Democratic candidates. "Dukakis [Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis] is terrible on gay rights issues. In Massachusetts, for example, he opposed foster parenting for gay and lesbian people. When asked to sign an executive order, he waffled very badly."

"I think Jesse Jackson is great on issues and in the current crop, no one has been more supportive," Dickinson added. "Yes, he is the only candidate to speak at the March on Washington but I don't think that Jesse Jackson is going to be electable, which is a key concern. I don't know anything about Gephardt [Rep. Richard Gephardt]. I don't know anyone who is working with him."

Nolan agreed with Dickinson. "We had a brief flirtation with Dukakis," he said. "We received a package here from people in Boston and it was pretty devastating stuff. Dukakis is not acceptable to me." Nolan added, "I never thought Gephardt would be a factor. The night of the Alice meeting neither Gephardt or Babbitt had a representative. I don't think they have the money."

Both Nolan and Dickinson

consider Gore's stand on gay rights and AIDS extremely important. "He has gone on record as saying he opposes discrimination because of sexual orientation and I think that is important," said Dickinson. Nolan added, "I think his position on AIDS is the fundamental issue. Too many people I know have died."

Nolan remembered a specific person. "A friend of mine died the night of the State of the Union message, he said. 'I listened and the President never mentioned the word AIDS. I just ripped into him at the Board of Supervisors meeting. It's like being half way through the Vietnam War and the President not mentioning there is a war raging and I just feel so deeply about that.'"

It is that kind of feeling which Nolan believes is stirring gays. "I think we are somewhat like a sleeping giant. I think we are getting politicized and we can play a big role," said Nolan. "I told Gore's people that they are making a big mistake if they only think gays are in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. They are all through the South."

Nolan said he may volunteer to go into the South to campaign for Albert Gore.

Howard Wallace To Be Honored

Howard Wallace will be honored for his pioneering work to establish mutual support between the labor movement and the gay and lesbian community at a dinner Feb. 25 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. The group People Speaking will honor Wallace, along with other grassroots activists and organizers, including Robert Katheiser, who will be honored for his work in educating the public about AIDS and for supporting and encouraging AIDS patients. The honorees were selected from nominees solicited from hundreds of community groups throughout the Bay Area.

Call 459-4457 for tickets and more information.

Correction

Last week the B.A.R. reported that Trocadero Transfer had been sold and was to be closed. Trocadero Transfer has not been sold. Owner Dick Collier will be leasing the space to Sanford Kellman for Saturday nights but no contract beyond that has been signed, however, Collier retains management of Trocadero Transfer.

GGBA Reps. Oppose Britt On Olympics

Favor '96 Olympics in Bay Area; Sup. Hsieh Tries Compromise

by Allen White

The effort to bring the International Summer Olympics to San Francisco in 1996 took a new turn this week as members of the Golden Gate Business Association expressed support for the Olympics and opposition to a resolution by Sup. Harry Britt. Britt's resolution before the Board of Supervisors puts the city on record as declining to participate in any efforts to bring the Olympics here until the International and United States Olympic Committees allow the use of the name "Olympics" by the Gay Games.

According to Britt, that attempt by GGBA representatives will not be successful. "The mayor has made it clear that he is not going to compromise our respect as a community so my best guess is that the resolution will pass next week," said Britt. He said he has the votes in the Board of Supervisors to gain passage.

The efforts to use the Golden Gate Business Association became known when Rod Palmer, GGBA's president, took a telephone poll of the group's board last week. The purpose was to determine support for the Britt amendment. The vote was 8 to 2 against Britt.

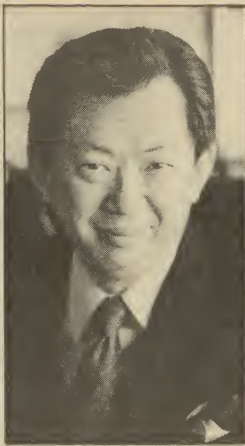
Among those board members voting against Britt was Katherine Krebs. Krebs was a paid staff person on the 1986 Gay Games to produce the opening and closing ceremonies at Kezar Stadium. When reached this week, Krebs refused to offer any explanation for her decision.

Kathy Cruz, a former president of the Bay Area Career Women, had voted against Britt but changed her mind following the vote last week. She claimed that the Bay Area Olympic organizing committee misled her. She said she now believes the social issues outweigh the economic issues.

Cruz and Rikki Streicher, an officer of Gay Games, pointed out a proposal by the Bay Area group that shows events going back over 50 years which have been successfully produced in the San Francisco area. The purpose was to show that the area would be an appropriate place for the Olympics. But while the Super Bowl at Stanford, is mentioned, nowhere in the brochure is there any mention of the Gay Games. This is significant because the Gay Games in 1986 were staged at athletic fields and arenas all over the Bay Area. Cruz and Streicher both said they believe that shows the homophobia which leads them not to want the Olympics in San Francisco.

Britt had a similar reaction. "We have not over the several months that this resolution has been out there had any indication that the USOC (United States Olympic Committee) is anything but maintaining its homophobic posture," he said.

"They have insulted our community very deeply and they don't seem to have any misgivings about that at all," said Britt. "There are a lot of people on the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee who are good people, who are trying to come up with an appropriate gesture, but I haven't seen anything put on the table which is even remotely acceptable. All of us would like to see the Olympics come to terms with who we are, but I don't see any hint that they're ready to do



Tom Hsieh

States Olympics who placed a lien on the home of Tom Waddell for legal fees. The lien was removed about two weeks after the Gay Games founder died.

Also supporting the Olympics was Rod Palmer, president of the Golden Gate Business Association. Palmer has taken a position that there has not been a "dialogue" between members of the gay community and the USOC. He said he believes all dealings have been through the legal process and people have never sat down and discussed the issues.

The lawsuit was filed by the United States Olympic Committee in 1982. The suit was successful in forcing San Francisco Arts and Athletics to stop using the word "Olympic."

One observer claimed that the GGBA board members supported bringing the Olympics to San Francisco for their own financial gain. Many own businesses or work for businesses standing to profit from such an event.

Robert Barnes, another GGBA board member, said he was shocked when he realized the board was attempting to defeat the Britt Amendment. Barnes said he now hopes that GGBA would simply not get involved. "I don't think they realize they are

being duped," he said. "Certainly gay business would benefit but the issue is lesbian and gay empowerment and what is best for gay and lesbian people."

Kathy Cruz took a similar view as Barnes but now believes the issue is on the GGBA table and they will be forced to take a stand. She said she is leaning towards supporting Harry Britt.

Caught square in the middle is Sup. Tom Hsieh. Last year he introduced and got passed a resolution by the Board of Supervisors which urges the California Congressional delegation to support an amendment to the Amateur Sports Act to authorize the use of the title Gay Olympics by the Gay Games at future events.

Hsieh also is carrying the resolution supporting 1996 Olympics in San Francisco. That resolution is in direct conflict with the Britt resolution. Hsieh's resolution contains a provision urging the Bay Area Olympic Committee to support a provision that allows the Gay Games to use the word "Olympic."

Barnes says he "believes Tom Hsieh is sincerely trying to bring people together but I don't think he understands the importance of this within our community and, frankly, I believe his resolution is toothless." ●

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Action Group Distrupts Panel

Protests Dannemeyer Speaking; Mandatory HIV Testing Denounced

by Miranda Kolbe

A panel discussion on mandatory testing for HIV antibodies was brought to a halt several times over the course of the evening Feb. 22 as protestors from the AIDS Action Pledge took up chants and marched around the Hastings Law School auditorium carrying signs, such as "Mandatory HIV Testing Targets Blacks and Latinos." The protestors challenged Congressman William Dannemeyer's presence on the panel. They handed out flyers which described him as "a living, breathing example of the reprehensible politics that have literally killed tens of thousands of Americans infected with HIV."

Dannemeyer, who has authored a ballot initiative which would put AIDS in the same category as other communicable diseases, concentrated his remarks on discrepancies between California's management of "curable, communicable venereal diseases, such as gonorrhea and syphilis" and AIDS. He advocated mandatory reportability of those who test HIV-positive, as well as mandatory testing for hospital admittees, persons convicted of prostitution, people applying for a marriage license, and people entering the prison population.

"These groups would reach about 50 million Americans a year," said Dannemeyer.

When asked by a member of the audience whether he felt testing such groups would provide reliable statistics as to the scope of the disease, Dan-

nemeyer replied, "These groups cut across a cross-section of American citizens."

Dannemeyer argued that members of these groups are routinely tested for other blood-borne diseases, and "the addition of a test for AIDS is no additional, invidious invasion of that person's rights whatsoever."

Dannemeyer later qualified his position on mandatory testing when he stated, "I feel so strongly about testing these groups, that I'm willing to add a proviso or amendment to that legislation which would allow that if an individual does not want to be tested, then let them opt out."

WARPED RESULTS

Dannemeyer's positions were challenged by every other member of the panel. Attorney Mary



William Dannemeyer, Steve Morin, Ed Power, Henri Norris, George Rutherford, Chuck Mason, and Mary Dunlap at the AIDS forum at Hastings College (Photo: S. Savage)

Dunlap addressed her remarks to the discriminatory nature of mandatory testing. She said, "If we have mandatory testing and you don't discriminate along the lines of any given group, then you invite a complete warping of the test results toward false positives. But if you test along the lines of risk groups, you discriminate."

Dunlap argued that mandatory testing is simply an opportunity for politicians to "make political hay at the expense of groups which have been historically discriminated against."

She said, "Prostitutes provide a dramatic example of what's wrong with mandatory testing. Politicians will say, 'I'm against mandatory testing, that is, except for prostitutes.' Guess who's getting stereotyped as being exposed to the virus in numbers greater than the general population—prostitutes. Yet science shows us that prostitutes are lower in their at-risk levels and their exposure levels than others, because prostitutes can teach a lot of us a hell of a lot about safe sex."

Dr. George Rutherford, of the San Francisco Health Safety Dept., argued that mandatory testing is needless, because San Francisco has been able to "manage the disease" without it.

Steve Morin, an aide to Rep. Nancy Pelosi, argued further, stating that while behavioral changes are associated with voluntary testing, in Colorado where military recruits were subjected to mandatory testing, they found no significant behavioral change in those who tested HIV-positive.

Other panel participants argued that mandatory testing would take limited resources away from research and education, which they felt were more important in the fight against AIDS.

Chuck Hanson, a Hastings Law student, stated, "Tonight, most likely, the issue of AIDS will be transformed from the medical and public health problem that it is to a political problem. I believe that mandatory testing is a political ploy to capitalize on fear about AIDS. Mandatory testing would needlessly and tragically divert limited resources away from prevention and treatment for people who already have AIDS or ARC or are antibody positive."

PROTEST CRITICIZED

During the panel's question-and-answer period, members of

the AIDS Action Pledge constructed a face-off with the panel's participants. A member of the Pledge stood up and said, "Mr. Dannemeyer needs to leave the forum. He has no right to be here. Either he leaves the forum or we demand that the other participants of the forum walk out. You dishonor those who are sick, you dishonor the people who have died by legitimizing him by being here."

Following this statement, members of the Pledge effectively cut off discussion, as they stood and chanted, "Mandatory testing we say no, Dannemeyer must go."

Mary Dunlap stood and managed to quiet the protestors. She then spoke. "The problem with asking us all to leave as an act of protest—which I might well do if I had nothing more to say and nothing more to hear—is that we are being mandated to do something that I think we don't want to do."

At that point, Dannemeyer left the forum as he was scheduled to leave for a plane.

The remainder of the evening

was punctuated by challenges to the efficacy of the protestors' methods. At one point, Chuck Hanson, who has AIDS, addressed one of the protestors directly and said, "I want to tell you personally that I am offended by your comment that my presence on this panel dishonors our dead, because they are my dead, too. I am a personal link with AIDS, and you don't have a right to tell me that. I was trying to do something constructive here, and basically you prevented a lot of constructive dialogue."

A woman from the audience, who also felt the protestors had erred, said that while Dannemeyer and his kind are easy targets, people were forgetting that liberals were also "selling us out." She said that senators would be voting the next day on a bill which would institute mandatory testing for anyone convicted of prostitution.

"Should they test positive," she said, "then the next time they're arrested they get charged with a felony." She commented, "If we think that only the right-wingers are going to sell us out, we're deluding ourselves." ●

Project Inform Town Meeting

Project Inform will hold another in its series of Town Meetings at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco on Monday, Feb. 29 starting at 7:30 p.m. The public forum topic will be the possible syphilis connection and Duesberg's perspective on HIV and the effect on treatment decisions.

Project co-directors Martin Delaney and Joseph Brewer will examine Peter Duesberg's critique of HIV as the cause of AIDS, and the possible relationship of syphilis to AIDS. They will deal with both as they relate to decisions about treatment.

As time allows, Delaney and Brewer will also conduct a discussion on the importance of social support in making decisions about treatment. More time will be available for questions and discussion of people's experiences with different medicines and treatment strategies.

Now in its third year, Project Inform is the community-based organization which disseminates information on available experimental treatments for AIDS, ARC and HIV infection. The Project holds town meetings twice monthly, one a basic informa-

tional meeting for newcomers exploring testing and treatment options, and a later meeting for more knowledgeable persons who want not only to explore treatment issues in more depth, but also to share their experiences with others. ●

Parsonage Announces 'Challenge To Be'

The Parsonage, a ministry of the Episcopal Church to the lesbian and gay community, announces its 1988 spring "Challenge To Be" training program. The seven-Saturday program investigates issues of importance to people in the lesbian and gay community.

Topics will include: spirituality and sexuality, gay/lesbian history, homophobia and coming out, gay/lesbian spirituality, relationship and community, loneliness and self-esteem, and developing a positive gay/lesbian identity. The day-long programs are scheduled for Feb. 20 and 27, March 12 and 19, and April 9, 16, and 30.

The Challenge To Be program will take place at the Parsonage, 555A Castro St. (next to Headlines near 18th) in San Francisco.

For more information about the program, call Kris Wagner at 534-5546 or the Parsonage at 552-2909. ●

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Good Sports

With the colorful excitement of the Winter Olympics being beamed at us from the icy fringes of Calgary, Canada, it's not a bad time to ponder what the International Olympics is all about and whether or not this city should seek out the 1996 Summer Olympics.

State Sen. Quentin Kopp is spearheading a drive to bring the Olympics to the Bay Area. That year will mark the centennial for the modern Olympics that revived the sporting competitions held by the ancient Greek city-states who were generally, otherwise, at war with one another.

On their higher level the games have come to symbolize international peace and cooperation. They remind us that we can compete in a non-warlike manner, in the spirit of sportsmanship—a spirit of generous winners and good-hearted losers. Well, like I said, it's only a symbol.

In reality, the Olympics seem to be less a non-political sports event than a way of carrying on war by another means. It has become fraught with politics from protest statements being made to national boycotts of games in this country or that country.

Just as bad has been all the sheer hype that has developed around the International games. The 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles was one extended commercial from official candy bars to an endless array of trinkets and souvenirs peddled for gullible consumers.

The Olympics have grown pretty far from their original purpose—to promote international harmony. Perhaps the best idea for 1996, and maybe permanently, is to return the games to Greece and hold them in Athens where the idea began.

There are practical reasons for not bringing the Olympics to the Bay Area. The much-touted economic boost to the local economy is deceptive. The same line was given to people in Los Angeles who were told that the 1984 games would bring in hordes of tourists to spend gobs of dollars. As it turned out, most people stayed home to watch the competitions on their televisions with ring-side, living room seats. Why not? Many businesses hoping to reap a good windfall profit barely made it or flopped. Few saw a surge in income.

The L.A. games, unlike most other Olympics, did not concentrate activities in one Olympic complex but utilized a number of existing facilities throughout the Los Angeles area. To everyone's amazement traffic was not a nightmare. Part of the reason lies in the above paragraph. But another reason is that L.A. has a comprehensive freeway system that can move masses of people about. The Bay Area does not. We are limited by geography to a few crowded freeways and clogged bridges that already regularly run over capacity. Running around the bay to catch the games could be a horror story.



But there are even more important reasons why the Bay Area should forego the 1996 Olympics. There is a serious human rights issue at stake. In an utterly prejudicial move, the U.S. Olympics Committee went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to block the Gay Games from calling itself Gay Olympics. The Gay Games is the only one of dozens of serious-to-ridiculous events using the olympics name to be so pursued. Worse yet, to show how mean and unsportsmanlike they can be, the U.S.O.C. hounded Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell to his dying day trying to take his house away from his family so the U.S.O.C. lawyers could be paid an outlandish sum for legal fees.

The Olympics are to represent the peaceful competition of all peoples. As they were meant to be, the games belong in a city like San Francisco with its polyglot mix and tradition of tolerance. In a way, the Gay Games embodies the Olympic ideal better than do the big name, super-hyped International Olympics. As those games have developed in reality, they are far from their ideal. The U.S.O.C. has turned them into their personal property—they even own the word—and into a political pawn.

As Sup. Harry Britt has said, this city should no more seek out the Olympic games than should it seek out the business of a Ku Klux Klan convention. San Francisco is a hospitable town but to extend that hospitality to those who discriminate is wrong. Let the 1996 International Olympics go elsewhere.

OPINION

A Glimpse Behind The Electronic Veil

by Tim Clarke

It was an exchange of heroic proportions, a duel of slashing tongues in the mythic media desert, a vicious tarantella of thrust and evasion, a *pas de deux* of punch and counter-punch. It was Goliath vs. Goliath, King Kong vs. Godzilla, Batman vs. The Joker. It was a short but welcome confrontation with real issues amidst the stagnant Kabuki that is the 1988 presidential campaign.

More importantly, it was George Bush's big chance to shake his image as the nation's foremost "wimp" by taking on our foremost video hero. And it worked, sort of. With a mean little snarl and a curl of his thin, thin lips, the Vice President sunk his teeth into Dan Rather's ankle and hung on for his political life. And in one brief and supremely lucid media moment he was transformed from the Wally Cox of the White House to the Grand Bitch Queen of American politics.

George Bush will never be president. Not because of his evasive and self-serving performance on one national television interview, not because of his tragic lack of personality, not because of his pettiness of spirit, not because of his close association with some of the more shady aspects of the Iran Arms Deal, but because he just doesn't "feel" right.

There's something about the Bush, CIA pedigree and all, that isn't All-American. And in this age of image over substance a man can lack substance but not the other way around.

OK, maybe Rather lost his professional cool. Maybe he got a little testy when The Bush tried to change the rules of the game in the middle of the play. Maybe, like a lot of other Americans, he's just fed up with the lies, half-lies and lunatic prefabrications used to justify the

Reagan Administration's demented and illegal policies. But what about this Bush character, who won't give the nation a straight answer on anything and wants to be president!

Long ago, before television even, American politics was characterized by lots of nasty little encounters, many of them far more contentious than the verbal slugfest that erupted that other night. And sometimes in the heat of rhetorical battle the truth would, as if by accident, emerge. If nothing else, these clashes made politics much more entertaining to the average voter. Recently, media managers have sought to reduce the national debate to a series of well-mannered video teas with ground rules which preclude any real exchange of views and information.

Selecting a president is serious business. Good manners and delicate sensibilities are all very well when your Aunt Bea comes to visit, but men running for high office should be prepared to fight their battles passionately and in public. They should cast aside self-serving excuses and engage the issues. And one of the biggest issues in this campaign, and one that will hound The Bush right to the losers circle in November, is his involvement in the improprieties and possible crimes of the Reagan Administration.

So, our thanks are in order to Mr. Rather and the Vice President, for giving us, for one brief moment, a glimpse behind the electronic veil into the men and the issues which are really at stake in the current contest to select a national leader.

And now, a word from our sponsor.

Not All Families Are Bad

★ I think all gay men and women are very sensitive to the fact that there are families who do not and will not honor the last requests or wishes of their gay relatives. However, I feel that the B.A.R.'s reporting of the Michael Fasano story (Jan. 21, 1988), was less than professional. Indeed it was more sensational.

A more comprehensive article would have been one which included the family's side of the story in the original article. As this is such an emotionally charged issue, it would behoove us not to paint all family relatives of gay men and women as hateful, bigoted louts. Many of them do love us!

Robert L. McMahon
San Francisco

Show Support for Cromey

★ I have seen in last week's B.A.R. that "Episcopalians Vote to Include Gays" in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, N.J. The issue is giving blessings to relationships traditionally not recognized by the church. So Jersey beat us to it! The issue is now up for action in California. Having revealed to the press that he had blessed a gay union in September, our own Father Robert Cromey, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church and a heterosexual gay activist and spiritual leader has again been thrust into the position of advocating for gay and lesbian issues in the church. He is to be presented to a committee of three priests and two lay persons to decide if he will be tried in an ecclesiastical court for disobeying a standing injunction forbidding the blessing of gay/lesbian relationships. Father Cromey believes the Bishop wants to use the situation to teach people in various churches about gay/lesbian rights. He has received 200 letters of complaint after the newspaper article. We can help this magically wonderful and spiritual community at Trinity by sending letters to The Right Reverend W. E. Swing, 1055 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. Trinity Episcopal has been at the vanguard of acceptance and love to all who enter its doors, and now is the time to give some back! Please, do this with love as we claim our power!

Ted Knipe
San Francisco

Maggie Thatcher, Rights Snatcher!

This letter was sent to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher:

★ I am a gay American, named for my grandfather's British cousin Harold J. Laski, and I am profoundly disturbed by Clause 28 and your government's anti-gay stance.

Obviously Clause 28 prohibits local governments from "intentionally promoting homosexuality." But sexual orientation can no more be "promoted" than eye color or height. The intent of Clause 28 is to deny recognition of the legitimacy of gay and lesbian lifestyles, and to "promote" hatred and intolerance instead.

You have stated: "Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay," implying that gayness and morality are incompatible. Isn't it time that recognition of an individual's right to be him (or her)self, and to be free to live openly and with dignity regardless of sexual preference, be included in the moral tradition of a great democracy? A government policy that encourages gay Britons to be ashamed of who they are and relegates them to second class citizenship may be traditional, but it is hardly moral.

Clause 28 isn't going to wish away the homosexuality of British subjects, prominent and ordinary, who participate in all aspects of national life. And what does your legislation say of a Tory party that chooses to use its power to demean, rather than support, those threatened by not only a killer disease but by the misconception that AIDS is a "gay disease"?

American gays are vulnerable, too. But in our country the likes of anti-gay Lyndon LaRouche, Sen. Jesse Helms, Phyllis Schlafly and Jerry Fallwell are widely regarded as dangerous fanatics.

Joel Harold Laski
San Francisco

Cranston Responds

This letter was sent to Glen Allen Reid:

★ I appreciate knowing of your interest and concern regarding my recent vote on an amendment—to the FY 1988 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act—under which funding for AIDS education, information, or prevention material could not be used to "promote or encourage" homosexual sexual activity.

I voted for the amendment along with 93 other senators because federal funding should not be used to advocate sexual activity of any kind, homosexual

or heterosexual. I also believe that the government should not discriminate against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation. That's why earlier this year I introduced S. 464, the proposed "Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1987," which would extend civil rights protections to include affectional or sexual orientation.

I fully understand and share the concern that the amendment could have been misinterpreted and applied in a way that would bar support for AIDS prevention materials that describe how to reduce the risk of transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus, or that would have prevented gay and lesbian organizations or other organizations with extensive outreach to the gay community from receiving funding for AIDS prevention purposes. Organizations like the AIDS Project Los Angeles or the San Francisco AIDS Foundation have been national leaders in developing a wide variety of materials about AIDS, for the general population as well as for certain target populations at increased risk for AIDS. We should not tie the hands of those organizations best able to reach and educate individuals about this horrible disease.

Although I voted for the amendment because I believe that the government should be neutral on the issue of sexual activity, I do not believe that the amendment would in any way contribute positively toward stopping the spread of AIDS. Moreover, because of the possibility that it could have been misconstrued and misapplied, I urged the Chairman and ranking minority members of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee to seek to have the conference committee modify the amendment to make clear that it does not exclude gay and lesbian organizations or other organizations that perform outreach to the gay community from receiving funds or otherwise to prevent that funding from being used to produce materials describing ways to reduce the risk of transmitting the disease.

I am pleased to let you know that, consistent with my recommendations, the conferees took action that will help ensure that the vitally important task of educating all Americans about AIDS will continue.

I understand your deep concern about this amendment. However, I want to assure you that, although I reluctantly voted for the amendment, I in no way have lessened my resolve or commitment to doing all I can to protect the civil rights of gay and lesbian individuals and other minorities. I trust you know I've long been a leader on both these fronts.

AIDS is a terrible human tragedy. We must combat it with science, medicine, and compassion—not politics. The violation of the civil rights of any individual is also a terrible human tragedy that we must combat in every way we can and with all the force we can muster.

Thank you again for letting me know your concerns about this very important matter.

Alan Cranston
U.S. Senator

Kopp and the Olympics

This letter was sent to Sen. Quentin Kopp:

★ I not only signed your petition to put your name on the ballot but I voted for you in the last election. I felt that you would better represent your San Francisco constituency than the San Mateo incumbent, Lou Pappan. I was wrong.

Your recent active involvement in trying to bring the 1996 Olympics to San Francisco not only offends me but many of your supporters. We are very aware of the United States Olympic Committee's (USOC) vicious lawsuit to prevent gays and lesbians from using the word "Olympic" for their athletic games. But until your recent actions, we were unaware of your prejudice.

When we sent you to Sacramento we felt you would represent all the citizens of your district. Instead, you now actively campaign for the bigoted USOC which flagrantly undermines gays and lesbians in this city who are striving for equal treatment.

Our new mayor recently stated, "gay and lesbian people are part of the human family and, as such, are entitled to the same kind of treatment and respect as anyone else." A statement that you obviously do not agree with.

Therefore, I promise you, Mr. Kopp, that not only will I vote against you in the next election, but I will actively campaign and contribute to your Democratic opponent. I will do everything in my power to make sure that your first term as a senator is your last term in Sacramento!

Raymond Tobler
San Francisco



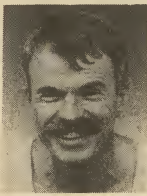
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EDITORIALS

Wrong-Headed Wayne
 This letter was sent to Wayne Shannon at KRONTV.

★ This regards your commentary on the Feb. 16 late edition of the news concerning the controversy over the City's policy of hosting or disinviting the Olympic Games (because of the USOC's dogged prosecution of the "Gay Olympics").
 You claim to abhor discrimination in all its forms, and to understand the motives behind Supervisor Britt's proposal; yet you reject the anti-Olympic action, arguing that it wouldn't change the USOC and would only deprive everyone concerned of a great deal of enjoyment, prestige, potential profits, etc. Instead you recommend that some of the generated revenue should be tagged to fight AIDS, sweetening the deal for everyone.

We always enjoy your humor and way with words, and usually agree with your opinions, but in this case we think you take a number of missteps.

- 1.) In choosing between a point of principle and the many allures of hosting the Olympics, you choose the latter. It's a pragmatic choice, easily defended by rationalizations. "Good, decent people" throughout history have always been willing to sacrifice the rights and dignity of a few for the greater good of the rest. I suppose discrimination seems such a petty thing when there's so much money and prestige at stake—especially if you're not the one being discriminated against.
- 2.) The issue is not AIDS; the issue is rights and dignity. Substituting charity for equal rights is offensive. If there's going to be a sellout, let the funds go to gay legal action and lobbying groups of the sort which fought the USOC in court. (See if the USOC will agree to that!)
- 3.) Again, the issue is not AIDS. Even mentioning it obfuscates the real issues at stake. Not all gay people have AIDS, and not all people with AIDS are gay. If the issue had been over an "AIDS Olympics" you can bet the USOC wouldn't have made a peep of protest. It's not nice in America to go around kicking sick people—even if they're mostly just sick faggots.
- 4.) Analogies such as the following are never perfect, but they can be illuminating. Imagine that it's 1950. The USOC has learned of a proposed "Black Olympics" and summarily stomped the movement into the ground, with the ultimate blessing of the Supreme Court. Should San Francisco host the Olympic Games? If you'll take another look at your commentary, substituting in each case the word "Black" for "Gay" and "Sickle-Cell Anemia" for "AIDS," I think you'll be genuinely shocked at how patronizing and wrong-headed it suddenly sounds.

Steven Saylor San Francisco
Richard Solomon San Francisco

There's More to Life than Booze

★ Like everyone else, I read the B.A.R. editorials, ads, and Shanti reminders about how we should clean up our lifestyles, and then I proceed to order another Bud until I get high enough to go out and do foolish and dangerous things. I figured that, since I am a "social" drinker (I only drink in bars), I'm not one of those people with "problems."

Then one day I was standing in my usual corner of Polk Gulch when I overheard the bar manager boasting how he had stopped smoking a year ago and stopped drinking two years ago, and now he feels terrific! I looked down at my Bud and said to myself, if a guy who makes his living selling alcohol realizes its worth giving up, may be I should too! Wow! It really hit home to hear it coming from a bar manager.

Now I haven't had a drink since. I feel great, and I'm saving a lot of money! Try it! There's so much more to life than booze, bars, and the inevitable guilt that goes with it.

I hope this helps someone out there.
Scott Turnbull
 San Francisco

Raves For MBB IV

★ Recently I attended the dress rehearsal of Men Behind Bars IV. The experienced performers (especially Gail Wilson) added a finesse and stage presence to the show, but it was the "amateurs" that made the evening a very special one for me. They were so obviously having a good time and willing to share that with their audience. I felt like jumping on stage and joining in the final production number. (Fortunately, for all concerned, I did not.)

It is moments like these that make me very proud to be a part of a community that continues to respond so compassionately to a need most of America would like to ignore. P.S. Thanks, Keith Ann, for sharing that night with Alexis and me.

Bonita Mae Bong
 San Francisco

Take That!
 This letter was sent to Elan Financial Services.

★ Enclosed please find part of my Visa card which I have voluntarily destroyed to protest Visa's financial support of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). I cancelled my Visa account in December to switch to MasterCard and now I want to explain why.

I do not want one cent of my money going to the U.S. Olympic Committee. Not only did the USOC bring suit against the Gay (Olympic) Games for daring to use the word "Olympic," while it appears to be OK for such entities as rats, dogs, and chili, they put a lien on the house of a defendant in the suit, Dr. Tom Waddell, who ran the decathlon in the 1968 Olympics, who conceived and organized the Gay Games, and who was dying of AIDS while the suit was in court. The poor guy died shortly after the decision against the Gay "Olympics," without even knowing whether he would be able to will his home to his daughter. It was only after he died, and the USOC received a lot of bad publicity locally, that they withdrew the lien and ceased trying to clean out the man's estate to pay for legal fees... as if the USOC needed the money.

Since Visa has chosen to financially support the USOC, I have chosen to send a message of dismay and disgust to both groups in the most effective way I know how—through my wallet. I will never spend another penny to benefit either the USOC or Visa.

I would like to express my appreciation to Elan Financial Services for facilitating my switch from Visa to MasterCard, which offers a choice of charities to benefit, with no loss in credit line or annual fee. I would suggest, however, that by offering a credit card which automatically and involuntarily supports an organization that discriminates in such a heartless fashion may embroil you in unwanted controversy—and tar you with the same brush.

Nancy M. Connolly
 San Francisco

Sexist Action

This letter was sent to the Women's Building.

★ Enclosed is your "statement" for my monthly donation of \$10, without my contribution. I will no longer be contributing to the Women's Building.

My reasons for declining donations are as follows:

It has come to my attention that your organization recently refused to rent your facilities to a gay male fraternal organization. [The Cheaters Motorcycle Club.]

It is obvious that you have the right to limit access to any group(s) you wish; however, I cannot in good conscience support a sexist action such as the one cited above, especially when it was a nonsexual activity involving not only one fraternal organization, but all 13 motorcycle clubs—a population that encompasses more than 200 gay men in San Francisco.

Therefore, kindly remove my company's name as well as my own from your list of donors and from your files. I will make every effort to find a more deserving women's group to whom I can make donations knowing that gay men will not be discriminated against because your agency feels "uncomfortable" with a bike club on your premises.

Patrick Batt
 San Francisco

We're All In It Together

★ On Jan. 8, the San Francisco Chronicle printed an article entitled, "Interest Groups' Agenda, What They Want from Agnos." Miguel Ramirez, coordinator for Bilingual Multicultural Services, is quoted as saying he hopes Agnos "will provide the leadership to shift the city's focus away from white gay men and tailor more of its education and services to minority people." Further, Ramirez asks for "the overhaul of the whole program."

This type of rhetoric strikes us as divisive, homophobic, and racist, and it denies the statistical reality of the epidemic. In San Francisco, 97 percent of AIDS cases occur among gay men, and approximately 50 percent of the gay male population (of all races) are infected. The San Francisco Department of Public Health projects that 95-98 percent of all new AIDS cases in the next five years will occur among gay and bisexual men.

It seems only logical that more, not less, resources be devoted to gay men of all colors. The Gay Men's AIDS Network advocates an increase in resources for all communities affected by AIDS. Pitting one community against another will only cost more lives.

Sam B. Puckett
 Gay Men's AIDS Network
 San Francisco

Thumbs Down on Walker

★ Feb. 16 the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution opposing the appointment of Vaughn Walker to the Federal Court of the Northern District of California. Mr. Walker's unconscionable harassment of Dr. Tom Waddell, coupled with evidence of his narrow legal experience, make him unfit for such an honorable appointment.

I am proud to be a strong supporter of this resolution, and confident that our statement will be heard by our Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C. Be assured that the Board of Supervisors will continue to work against this most inappropriate appointment.

Sup. Bill Maher
San Francisco

'Our Place' Closes

★ The staff and members of Our Place wish to thank those individuals who contributed to the two-year operation of Our Place. Our Place was an open living room for persons with AIDS or ARC and their friends, family, and lovers. A place to share with others, play games, or watch television. Our Place was located at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

In a general membership meeting held on Feb. 9, the members passed by an unanimous vote to close Our Place due to lack of participation and volunteers to open and close.

We also would like to thank Rev. Robert Cromey and the Trinity Episcopal Church for giving Our Place a home; Ruth Brinker and Open Hand for providing snacks and foods for everyone at Our Place, and the Bay Area Reporter for advertisements. Again, thank you all.

David Burlew
Acting Director, Our Place

More Than A Social Club

★ As a member of the Steering Committee of the University of California Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (Note: UCCALA, not just GALA), I would like to thank you for your coverage of our last event, the evening with Sam Steward (Phil Andros) on Jan. 27. Presentations are only one of a variety of social events planned by UCCALA, open to all University of California alumni/ae and friends of the University. UCCALA's purpose is broader than simply hosting social events, and I thought it would be helpful to write a letter to let your readers know about our other functions.

UCCALA was formed over a year ago, at the end of 1986. Since that time, we have participated in the Parade in June, hosted Mary Dunlap (a Cal alumnae), and held a barbecue and dance. After over half a year, we finally have been chartered by the California Alumni Association. We feel a strong commitment to the University of California, its student body, and its lesbian, bisexual, and gay alumni.

One important means of supporting gay, lesbian, and bisexual studies on the UC campuses is to make sure that our money supports such academic work. We are developing a scholarship program, and have plans for fundraising to help sponsor UC students interested in studies and research on gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues. Our next event, in fact, where a UCCALA group will attend an evening of UC women's basketball (on March 11), is planned as a benefit for the UCCALA scholarship fund.

Our first newsletter will be coming out around April 1. For further information about the club, please contact UCCALA, P.O. Box 3415, Oakland, CA 94609, phone: 547-2200.

Jay Paul
Berkeley

Vaughn Walker

★ Thank you for your good work covering the various nominations made by President Reagan and Senator Wilson to the federal judiciary. As your many stories and excellent editorials have illuminated, the people being placed on the bench are among the most anti-gay and anti-women to be found in the legal profession. Indeed, some of these choices have made their reputations as "true conservatives" by the extent and intensity of their assaults on the rights and dignity of women and gay people.

The recent nomination of Vaughn R. Walker to the San Francisco district court is a further reminder that a Reagan/Wilson criteria for membership on the court seems to demand a history of anti-gay rhetoric or actions. Walker's conduct as the chief lawyer for the U.S. Olympic Committee was reprehensible and, alone, should bar his placement on the bench.

Mr. Walker's personal sexual orientation is *not* an issue. I do not believe that Mr. Walker—or any citizen—is obligated to answer questions about his sexual identity. In fact, when asked if I knew Mr. Walker to be a closeted homosexual, I replied: "I would not presume to define Mr. Walker's sexual orientation for him; he would need to do that." What is of concern—and a relevant issue—is whether Mr. Walker has zealously advocated actions that were anti-gay in order to deflect attention or questions about his own sexual identity. This is what I characterize as the "Roy Cohn Syndrome."

Thus, an important matter is whether Mr. Walker would be a fair and impartial jurist in the disposition of legal cases—especially cases originating out of the lesbian/gay community. If recent history gives us a clue, the answer is a resounding NO! I, like most who have reviewed Mr. Walker's hostile actions against Tom Waddell, as he lay dying of AIDS, believe that Mr. Walker suffers from the Cohn Syndrome. And we, as lesbians and gay men, will suffer from the presence on the judiciary of Vaughn R. Walker.

We are entitled to someone better. The last person Senator Wilson put on the San Francisco bench publicly—on the record—referred to homosexuality as "perversion" and homosexuals as "perverts." This same man, now a federal judge, referred to a litigant as "that faggot." He was, by the way, the same judge who ruled against Gay Olympics, and assessed—at Vaughn R. Walker's request—\$96,000 in attorney fees against Tom Waddell. Though this unjustified and outrageous award was later thrown out by the Court of Appeals, Walker refused to remove the lien on Tom Waddell's house until after his death. Tom Waddell died not knowing whether his home would be passed on to his young daughter as a part of his legacy, or would go to Vaughn R. Walker.

We are proud of our efforts, along with many others in our community, to block this cruel nomination. We have again made clear that we will stand solidly with any sister or brother who has been unjustly treated by ambitious politicians or the legal system. The essence of the message is that politicians and judicial nominees can no longer rely on the use of anti-gay tactics to achieve personal goals.

T. J. Anthony
San Francisco

Get Informed

★ In this period of deep caring for the ill, we sometimes forget that we must also take care of the well if we plan to survive this most deadly epidemic, AIDS.

Last night I reluctantly attended a meeting of Project Inform. I want to first commend Joe Brewer for his dedication and commitment to the dissemination of the latest available information about the choices we, as gay healthy men, have in the maintenance of our individual health programs.

Secondly, I would like to give praise to the over 150 courageous men (and one woman) who faced the very uncomfortable fact of their possible illness. But who now have a chance to take an active part in their continued good health, or may choose to do nothing. But they are now informed!

Project Inform does need volunteers. Just call 928-0293, and I am sure they can find some work for you to do.

The next meeting of Project Inform is Feb. 29 at MCC, 7:30 p.m. Just think about it now, then act! It's your life.

Walt Dennis
San Francisco

Historic Opportunity

★ Roberta Achtenberg's campaign for state Assembly presents the lesbian and gay community a historic opportunity to advance our interests, and the interests of our progressive allies. Her election will bring California its first openly gay member of the Assembly. History has taught us the value of such breakthroughs. Harvey Milk's election to the Board of Supervisors fundamentally changed that board (and city government) at its deepest institutional levels. Achtenberg in the Assembly will do the same for state government.

Last spring we almost got Harry to Washington. This spring, let's get Roberta to Sacramento.

Jonathan H. Malone
San Francisco

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Achtenberg Blocks Burton

The race for the Democratic nomination in the 16th Assembly District, which was heretofore considered a shoo-in for former Assemblymember (and Congressman) John Burton, has come alive and some observers now see this as a real fight between the former legislator and lesbian/activist attorney Roberta Achtenberg, who is generally considered to be the underdog candidate.

Achtenberg, the 37-year-old director of the Lesbian Rights Project, and her supporters on the state and county Democratic committee blocked an expected endorsement of Burton this past weekend, denying him the necessary 70 percent needed to get the blessing of the party establishment. The action by the local party machinery, which endorsed all other Democratic incumbents in both the state legislature and Congress, were the first such endorsements made by the local party since a recent court decision upheld the right of political parties to endorse candidates before a primary election.

Though supporters of John Burton downplayed the action taken Sunday, the ability of the Achtenberg supporters to block the endorsement of the powerful Burton was clearly seen as a "victory" of sorts for Achtenberg. It gave added impetus to a campaign that has seemingly suddenly caught on. Most Democratic party big names have endorsed Burton, while Achtenberg has been endorsed by Supervisors Harry Britt, Richard Hongisto, and last week picked up the endorsements of San Francisco Tomorrow and California Now, two important environmental planning groups. Achtenberg had previously been endorsed by the Milk, Toklas, and Stonewall Democratic Clubs.

Achtenberg told the Bay Area Reporter this week "It's way past time our community got an openly gay voice in Sacramento. We need a voice that will see to it that California meets the AIDS crisis in a way politicians have been reluctant to meet it. I will be that voice."

Achtenberg says that "in addition to countering the mindless bigotry we still see in the state legislature, I will go to Sacramento committed to a progressive agenda that will not allow insurance companies to discriminate on the basis of AIDS, HIV status, sexual orientation, zip code or other demographic factors."

Achtenberg pledges to preserve women's reproductive rights, including the right of



Roberta Achtenberg

(Photo: S. Savage)

women on MediCal to have abortions, if they wish; to use state powers to increase the stock of affordable housing and stimulate creation of blue-collar jobs; to restore CAL-OSHA, make workplaces safer and clean up toxic pollution; and to provide affordable, quality childcare for all our children.

She says that the AIDS crisis clearly must take precedence on the state level. While guaranteeing the civil rights of people with the disease, Achtenberg says this state must spend more on AIDS research, prevention and education, and better care for those already suffering with the deadly disease.

"The lesbian and gay community needs a strong voice in the California legislature, an openly gay voice is long overdue, and this district needs a strong voice that will speak out for the majoring of minorities that live here," says Achtenberg, "with your help I can be that voice."

As someone who has observed the political scene in this city for the past 15 years, I really think that Roberta Achtenberg is exactly what this city needs. It is indeed time that we stop electing "straight, liberal friends" in place of one of our own, and I urge you to send a donation to Achtenberg for Assembly, 785 Market St., San Francisco. If you live in the 16th Assembly District, plan now to vote for Roberta Achtenberg in the special election on April 12.

One of my favorite people, Mark Friese, will celebrate his 32nd (?) birthday this Sunday by holding a fundraiser for Project Open Hand at The Mint on Market Street. Mark is one of those who has spent years helping raise funds to fight AIDS since its discovery in 1981, and all are invited to stop by The Mint between 4-9 p.m.; a donation of \$5 or whatever you wish is requested for the Project and I'll see all of you there. Danny Williams plans an afternoon of entertainment and it's all for a good cause.

Democratic state party chair Peter Kelly is causing some unnecessary bitterness in Demo ranks by his "prediction" that his party will endorse Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy at its convention next month for the U.S. Senate nomination. Bill Press, McCarthy's opponent, has every reason to be annoyed at the supposedly "impartial" party chairman taking sides in a primary before the delegates even get a chance to vote.

And from Baton Rouge we get the news that yet another God-fearing televangelist, Jimmy Swaggart, has bitten the biblical dust. Swaggart, charged with tricking with a prostitute (or two), after blowing the whistle and passing judgement on Jim Bakker, announced that he was about to develop a "moral code of ethics" for fellow evangelical preachers (ha!).

San Francisco supporters can

meet the aforementioned Senate candidate Bill Press next Tuesday at 2618 Jackson Street (call 255-0241 for info).

The Toklas, Milk and Stonewall Democrats, along with the Concerned Republicans (CRIR) are holding a kickoff fundraiser for the effort to defeat the LaRouche Initiative and pass the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative this Monday, Feb. 29, at the Zuni Cafe (6-8 p.m., no-host cocktails, \$50 donation asked).

Gay and lesbian political activists in the East Bay expected to get behind the effort of Sumne McPeak in her effort to wrestle the Democratic State Senate nomination from incumbent Dan Boatwright in the 7th District. Boatwright, no friend of gays, is in for the fight of his political life.

Barbara Taylor, KCBS City Hall reporter, complaining on last week's Viacom City Desk program that Mayor Art Agnos is always "putting everything off until tomorrow," nicknamed him the "Manana Mayor."

Aren't all these resolutions about the Olympics an exercise in futility? After all is said and done, everyone knows that it is a cinch the next Summer Olympics in 1996 will be held in Athens, Greece anyway.

Quote of the Week: Jesse Jackson, when asked how he would deal with the AIDS crisis, said, "We should have some sense of mercy on those who are now dying with AIDS. On Oct. 11 of last year, there was a march in Washington, 600,000 people, led by gays and lesbians, but with a broad range of people crying out for research money and support to deal with the AIDS crisis. I, alone, stood with the people that day. I purposely chose to offer my leadership to offset the stigma, to free other political leaders to deal with the crisis. We obviously need to have more research money. And I would hope that we would commit ourselves to an international research arrangement, and immediately fund it adequately."

Achtenberg Volunteers Take Note

Sup. Harry Britt will speak at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, when volunteers for Roberta Achtenberg's Assembly campaign meet on the 7th floor of 785 Market St. in San Francisco.

Stonewall Elects Officers; Supports Achtenberg

At its Feb. 1 meeting the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club elected the following new officers for 1988: John Belskus, political vice president; Doug Emerson, projects vice president; Wayne Moore, administrative vice president; Alex MacDonald, newsletter editor; Laurie McBride, treasurer; T.J. Anthony, corresponding secretary; Keith Truitt, recording secretary; and Ben Gardiner, parliamentarian.

Stonewall also voted to endorse Roberta Achtenberg for the 16th Assembly race by an overwhelming 92 percent of the votes cast. Members enthusiastically demonstrated their support for Achtenberg with signs and by leafleting the participants of the Feminization of Power Conference Feb. 7, who responded warmly. Many of those attending the conference signed up as volunteers or contributors for Achtenberg's campaign.

Stonewall also took the following actions on several important civil rights issues at its Feb. 1 meeting:

- Supporting Sup. Hongisto's measure to ban anti-gay discrimination by city sub-contractors. This includes contracts by KQED with Monitor Radio, which has a history of homophobic job discrimination and selective exclusion of gay-related news coverage;

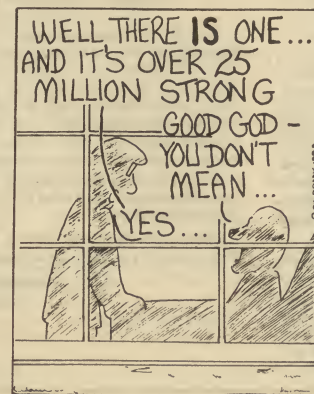
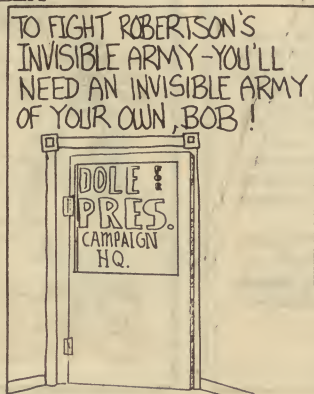
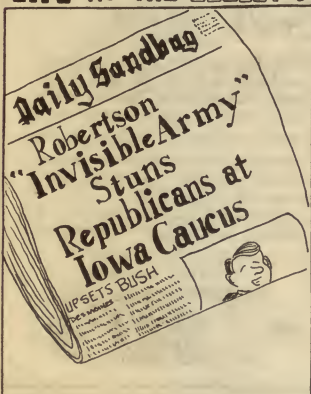
- Opposing mandatory HIV testing of prostitutes, as called for in the Brozman Bill which just passed the State Assembly. Stonewall will urge opposition to the bill by Sens. Milton Marks, Quentin Kopp, and David Roberts. The club also calls on its friends to lobby the State Senate against a bill which isolates prostitutes as the first target group, a process which may lead to eventual wholesale mandatory HIV testing of people perceived as high-risk groups for AIDS;

- Opposing the nomination of Charles Lundgren for state treasurer. Lundgren has a record of opposition to full equality for gay people, women, and ethnic minorities.

Gay Feds Elect New Directors

Members of Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) recently elected their 1988 Board of Directors. The new directors are: Dave Corkrum, Federal Aviation Authority; Joe Durban and Frank Morelli of IRS; John Linnegen of the General Services Administration; and Robert McMeachin, John-Michael Olexy, and Ted Sloan of the Social Security Administration. For further information call 695-9174.

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



A Place And Purpose



Michael Mallett and friends

If this isn't a feel-good story, then I don't know what is. In the grand scheme of things, it's a barely-perceptible ripple on the surface. But ripples have a way of reaching outward, and it's wise to remember that, especially at a time when ominous waves, in the familiar form of Lyndon LaRouche, are about to come crashing down upon us once again.

Michael Mallett is a person with AIDS. A masseur last summer discovered a small spot on his leg, and a doctor at San Francisco General confirmed the masseur's suspicions. Following a biopsy, Michael was diagnosed with KS in July.

Michael is also the father of two children. His youngest child, Lee-Michael, is now almost nine years old. In 1982, when his son was two-and-a-half, Michael enrolled him in the Haight-Ashbury Cooperative Nursery School. This is a school where the parents not only pay monthly tuition but also agree to work one day a week supervising children.

As one of those parents, Michael cheerfully played his part. His duties involved setting up activity tables, preparing snacks, taking the kids to the playground and the like. This lasted for a little over a year, until Michael's wife, from whom he was separated, withdrew Lee-Michael from the school and took him to France to live.

This past fall, following a visit to France to see his ex-wife and son, Michael stopped in at the nursery school to visit old friends. While there, he told them about his diagnosis. The current director, Cocoa Drake, was warm and supportive. "Her response was a heartfelt and empathetic one," Michael recalls. "She and Naomi White, one of the founders of the school, soon became part of my intensive support system."

A short time later, in November, Michael offered his services as an on-call substitute parent. His friends, Cocoa and Naomi, thought it was a great idea and brought it up at the next monthly parents meeting. Unfortunately, not all the parents agreed. Some approved the proposal. Others didn't like the idea of a PWA coming into direct contact with their children on a fairly intimate basis.

For two months, the parents debated. Cocoa and Naomi dealt with the resistance by having one of the mothers go to an AIDS

education workshop and reporting back to the group. This mother patiently explained that AIDS isn't passed through casual contact, but some of the parents still refused to believe it.

According to Michael, "Naomi told them, 'Most of you are liberals and proud of it, but now you have to confront your fear of AIDS, not to mention your homophobia. The medical evidence assures you that you have nothing to worry about, so why do you?'"

In the end, the majority decided in Michael's favor, but four families (out of 20) left the school. Cocoa Drake drafted a letter stating, "The nursery school community is pleased to report that we have chosen to affirm as policy the principle that people with AIDS are welcome in our community. This policy therefore opens the door to a family who may have the misfortune to have a child who has become infected and is diagnosed as having AIDS. It is also the basis on which we invite Mr. Michael Mallett to work ... with the children."

"So you see," explains Michael, "my hiring has had two important ramifications. One, there is now an established policy accepting parents and children with AIDS. The issue will not have to be rethought. And two, it's now officially okay for gays and lesbians with children to enroll their kids at the school, whether they have AIDS or not."

In mid-January, Michael finally worked his first day at the school. He now works approximately once a week, doing all the things he used to do as a participating parent. If the kids know of his diagnosis, they do not speak to him about it, although he has discussed the matter with their parents. The children, it seems, have other things on their minds—like lunch and playtime.

"The kids love me a lot," Michael says. "Cocoa and Naomi anticipated that it would be a good experience, but I don't think that anybody, including me, anticipated the amount of spontaneous love that would happen between the children and myself."

Michael accepts that someday all this will come to an end. Some day, sooner or later, he will die. But that doesn't matter so much now that he knows he has a place and a purpose in the world. Volunteering at a school where he is loved and accepted has not only reaffirmed his faith in the essential goodness of other people but has given him renewed faith in himself.

"It's my major way of giving," he said. "A lot of people are taking care of me and nurturing me, so this is a way for me to give back to the world. That means a lot."

It is a lesson that could mean a lot to Lyndon LaRouche as well—if only he would put his fear and hatred aside long enough to listen.

1,000 Cable Car Tix On Sale

Cable Car Awards Chair Bob Cramer announced that over 1,000 tickets priced at \$10 have been placed on sale at all Headlines Stores. He also said that all reserved seat tickets for this year's award show are now sold out. The \$10 tickets will guarantee admittance to the building and there will be limited non-reserved seating and standing room on all floors. The show begins at 8 p.m.

The tickets were placed on sale because, according to Cramer, "We wanted to make sure that everyone who wanted to see this year's show would be able to get in."

It was also announced that Mayor Art Agnos, Congresswomen Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi will be joining dozens of leaders in the gay community as presenters at the 1988 Cable Car Awards next Saturday at the Giftcenter Pavilion.

Also presenting Cable Car Awards will be Cheryl Crane, the author of *Detour*, her autobiography telling of her life as the daughter of film star Lana Turner. Last year's Cable Car Award Entertainer of the Year, Danny Williams, will also be on the program. KPIX's People Are Talking hosts Ann Fraser and Ross McGowan are scheduled to appear at the award show.

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Keep Your Job—And Your Rights

Excerpted from Living With AIDS: A Guide to the Legal Problems of People With AIDS, published by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (© 1987). Reprinted with permission. Individual copies are available from Lambda at \$3.95 per copy. Bulk rates upon request from LLDEF, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

People with AIDS and people whom others regard as being "at risk" of AIDS often encounter employment discrimination: dismissal, refusal to hire, isolation at the workplace, or forced unpaid leave or medical discharge.

The most useful tools for fighting AIDS discrimination are laws that forbid employment discrimination because of a person's handicap or disability. New York State and New York City both have such statutes, and they have been interpreted to prohibit employment discrimination against people with AIDS, and also against people who are "perceived"—that is, thought

by others—to have AIDS. This last category includes groups assumed to be "susceptible" to AIDS (such as gay men), people who live with or are related to a person with AIDS, and people who have had positive blood tests for HIV antibodies.

JOB BIAS

Federal law also offers some protections. The Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) forbids employers to fire or discriminate against workers in order to keep them from claiming benefits. This law would be applicable if an employer tried to fire a person with AIDS in order to avoid paying health or disability benefits.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits employment discrimination against the handicapped, or people regarded as handicapped, by federal agencies, federal contractors and subcontractors, and by employers that receive federal funds, such as hospitals that get Medicare and Medicaid funds and schools. It requires employers to make "reasonable accommodations" to the handicaps of otherwise qualified

applicants and employees. This might mean adjustments of hours or job assignments, so long as they would not cause the employer undue financial burden. The Act also bars employment discrimination against recovered drug abusers, including those in methadone maintenance treatment.

If you experience employment discrimination because you have AIDS, or because an employer thinks you do, your simplest, least costly, and quickest course of action is to make a complaint to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. If your complaint is successful, you could be awarded back pay, reinstatement, and damages. Although you may want to consult a lawyer first, it is not absolutely necessary. However, you should seek legal help if you encounter unreasonable delays or obstacles in the processing of your complaint.

You also have the right to sue an employer in court, but judicial relief can take a long time—and time is an important consideration for people who are already ill with AIDS—and you will need a lawyer.

If you are a union member, ask your union to file a grievance for an employer's act that violates a contract provision or a law prohibiting employment discrimination. A union is not required to initiate a grievance in every instance, but it cannot refuse to act solely on the grounds that you have AIDS.

In some cities you may have additional protections against AIDS-related discrimination. A number of cities have laws forbidding municipal or private employment discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation. Use these laws if they apply to your personal circumstances.

SCREENING

The HIV antibody test licensed by the FDA was intended primarily to screen donated blood, not to screen people. Although there has been a great deal of public discussion about using the test as a screening device for employment, it is not yet known to have been applied in any widespread, systematic way, except in certain kinds of federal employment, including the Foreign Service, the Peace Corps, the Job

Corps, and the military.

A few states prohibit the use of the HIV antibody test for employment purposes. But even though there may be no such statute, you are almost certainly protected. Because AIDS and "perceived AIDS" are considered protected handicaps under the state human rights law (see above), an employer probably could not require applicants or employees to submit to testing, or consider the result of a test in making an employment decision. The same reasoning would apply if an employer tried to fire you after learning the results of a test used for screening blood (which might happen, for example, in a corporate-sponsored blood drive).

An employer might attempt a broader form of screening for AIDS simply by refusing to hire someone in a so-called "risk group." This can be challenged as illegal discrimination on the basis of a perceived disability, and in the case of gay people and recovered drug abusers, possibly as a violation of other applicable civil rights laws as well (see above).

CONFIDENTIALITY

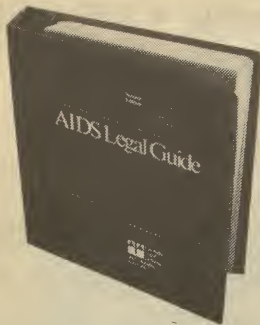
The law defining an employee's right to confidentiality is complex. It varies widely according to the type of employment (federal, state, city, private) and type of information.

You should become aware of the many ways in which information gathered by an employer is disclosed elsewhere—to other prospective employers, credit-reporting agencies, banks, landlords, and various government agencies. Remember also that the company doctor and other medical personnel who work for your employer do not necessarily have a traditional doctor-patient relationship of confidentiality with you. The results of a pre-employment examination, periodic routine physicals, or a required examination when you return from sick-leave will, in most circumstances, be reported to your employer, without your permission.

Your best protection is to ask to examine the contents of your employment files and try to monitor your employer's disclosures of information to outsiders. Union contracts and corporate policies sometimes have provisions allowing employees to see their files. State and federal laws provide such rights for certain categories of government employees.

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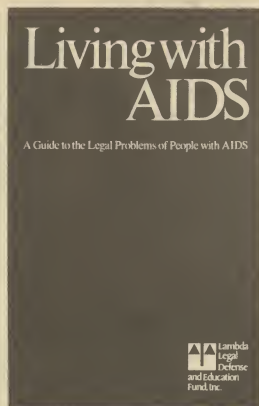
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AIDS Foundation Honors Ten Cos.

In San Francisco, "The corporate response to the AIDS epidemic has been primarily a humane and compassionate one," says Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. To celebrate a productive public-private partnership that helped develop the nationally acclaimed *AIDS In The Workplace* package, the AIDS Foundation will host a recognition luncheon Feb. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the third floor conference room of the Foundation's office at 25 Van Ness.

The luncheon will honor Pacific Bell, Levi Strauss, Wells Fargo, Mervyn's, Chevron, Bank of America, AT&T, PG&E, McKesson, Blue Shield of California, and Fireman's Fund of America.

Women Teachers Harassed With Hate Mail

GLENCOE, IL—Police in this small Illinois town have two suspects in a case of anti-lesbian hate mail being sent to two women teachers in the Glencoe school district. The letters sent to several hundred residents of the town charged that the two women were lesbians and that lesbians were child molesters and would infect children with AIDS. Their names, addresses and phone numbers were printed in the letters.

The letters were identified as coming from a group called Parents Against Homosexuals in Teaching and were signed by an apparent pseudonym "Millie Stevens". Police and postal inspectors say the two suspects involved are an adult man and woman. No charges have been filed and police say that they believe no laws have been broken.

It is not known whether or not the two women are in fact lesbians.

The Glencoe Board of Education, however, immediately issued a letter to residents stating that the matter was of "gravest" concern. The board defended the two teachers, "both of whom have served our district for over fifteen years and have demonstrated an extraordinary personal and professional commitment to our district and its students."

Glencoe Chief of Police Robert Bonneville said he doubted the police could do much. The letter may have been "slanderous," he said, but he couldn't find any criminal laws broken. He defended the teacher, saying, "What they do, what lifestyle they follow when they're away from the school, I think, is a private matter and not something that the schoolboard and certainly not something the police are interested in." ●

—Outlines

N.H. Senate Kills Sodomy Ban

CONCORD—The notoriously conservative New Hampshire state Senate dismissed by voice vote a proposal to recriminalize "unnatural and lascivious acts." Had it passed, the bill would have created a class B felony crime, but did not define what was meant by "unnatural and lascivious acts." No debate on the bill took place. New Hampshire decriminalized private, adult, consensual sexual behavior in 1973.

The defeat of the bill, SB 240, followed the Jan. 11 hearing and a negative vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Jack Chandler, sponsor of the bill, was the only person who testified in support, saying it was needed to "wipe out deviant behavior."

Marcus Hurn testified against the bill on behalf of the New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR). He said, "This bill is doomed to failure in its announced purpose because same sex relations are not unnatural, only less common. You can't wipe out deviant behavior. You can't wipe us out."

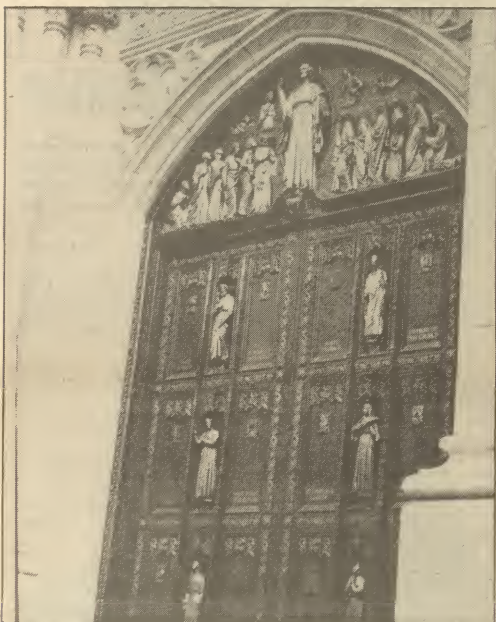
Ellen Musinsky, also of CAGLR, told the committee she was insulted by the introduction of the bill. "I pay \$7,000 a year in state and federal taxes. I contribute to the United Way and the Special

Olympics. I take care of a stray cat. And I am angry that the state of New Hampshire would consider locking me up at the cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year because someone is offended by my private behavior."

The executive director of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, Claire Ebel, put it this way: "Give this bill the fate it deserves. Burn it."

Unlike last year's bill to prohibit foster care placements with lesbians and gay men, Chandler's recriminalization bill attracted very little attention from members of the Senate or the New Hampshire news media. Susan Bruce, moderator of CAGLR's steering committee, noted, "Chandler's bill had so little support that it was defeated as part of a package of several other bills. We're pleased this bill died a natural and uncomplicated death. We feel confident it won't be resurrected in the future."

The defeat of the New Hampshire sodomy recriminalization bill is a hopeful sign for repeal of sodomy laws in other states. "The unpopularity of the recriminalization bill demonstrates disapproval for the Supreme Court's 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*," said Sue Hyde, director of NGLTF's Privacy Project. ●



(Photo: Rink)

Kiss-In For Cardinal O'Connor

NEW YORK CITY—About 75 people held a St. Valentine's Day kiss-in outside St. Patrick's Cathedral during Sunday mass in the latest form of a series of demonstrations at the cathedral by Dignity, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics that has been barred

from using church facilities.

The previous week two dozen demonstrators were arrested. No arrests Sunday were made as protesters kissed each other, blew kisses toward the cathedral and handed out chocolate kisses, according to Associated Press reports. ●

Georgetown Bows To Court Ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Georgetown University, which is waging a battle to avoid supporting gay groups on campus, has to abide by a federal appeals court ruling.

The university agreed Feb. 12 to give gay student groups "equal treatment." A District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruling late last year had said the university must offer the organizations the same "tangible benefits" given other student groups, although it did not have to "officially recognize" them.

Georgetown's announcement came one day after the D.C. Office of Human Rights said it

would launch a "major investigation" into the university's treatment of gay groups, according to Associated Press reports.

University spokesman Gary Krull said its action had "nothing to do" with the Human Rights Office investigation and the decision was made before the university learned of the probe.

Krull also said the decision "does not prejudice our ability to file" a formal request for the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. Last month, the high court twice rejected Georgetown's request to stay the appeals court ruling.

Krull said Georgetown would give gay organizations on its law school and main campus "the same things it offers to any group." ●

Frank May Run Unopposed

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Barney Frank, who acknowledged last year that he is gay, is busy raising money for his reelection campaign while the Republican Party is still looking for someone to oppose him, reports Associated Press.

The only Republican who may run against the liberal Massachusetts Democrat is a conservative gadfly who withdrew from the 1986 Massachusetts gubernatorial race after admitting he had lied about his military record.

"I don't know what the Republicans plan to do about it, but the reading we have (from polling) is that voters care about performance in office" and not per-

sonal issues like sexual preference, Frank told AP. "And that's certainly consistent with the reading I've gotten from people."

Massachusetts Democrats say that Frank's disclosure will have little impact on voters who have sent him to Congress with increasingly convincing victory margins 52 percent, 60 percent, 74 percent and 89 percent.

But Frank is taking nothing for granted. According to campaign reports filed with the Federal Election Commission, the fourth-term congressman raised \$144,300 during 1987, compared to \$71,400 in 1985. He spent \$106,400 last year compared to \$49,800 in 1985. ●

Applications for NGLTF Board Solicited

The Board of Directors of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) invites interested persons to consider serving on the 24-member board. The NGLTF Board is elected by all Task Force members during elections held in August and September of each year. Any member of the Task Force is eligible to serve on the board. Approximately eight seats will be open for election this year.

All applicants should address their letters of interest to Peter Fowler, Chair, Board Nominations Committee, NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009. ●



As people with AIDS look to Shanti, we look to you for support.

The Gay/Lesbian community has created support services for people with AIDS and their loved ones that are a model for our nation and the world. As Shanti volunteers, you have been an essential part of our Emotional and Practical Support programs. Today, as the number of people living with AIDS increases, we

need your help more than ever before.

The next *Practical Support Training* begins Friday, April 8th. The next *Emotional Support Training* begins Friday, April 29th.



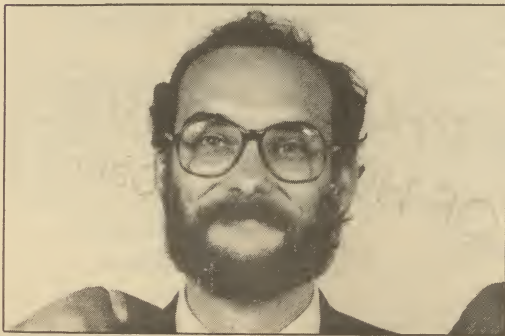
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Partner Benefits Proposed By Sups.

Britt Plan Calls For Registration; Nelder Drafting Extended Family Act

by Jay Newquist

It was vetoed in 1982 by Mayor Dianne Feinstein, but domestic partners—or alternative families—legislation has risen from the ashes and awaits the promised support of Mayor Art Agnos. Sup. Harry Britt is preparing to introduce the 1988 legislative version before the Board of Supervisors while members of the gay and lesbian community added their input at a special meeting held Feb. 16 at the Women's Building.



Matt Coles

More than 50 attendees had definite ideas about the scope of a city ordinance that would validate gay and lesbian domestic relationships as well as unmarried heterosexual live-in lovers. The ordinance would extend the same health benefits and bereavement leave that would be

afforded more conventional family relationships.

"It was a very lively session, there were a lot of good ideas and that's what we're hoping for," said Matt Coles, the ACLU attorney who drafted the measure.

Coles said some amendments to the Britt legislation included:



Wendy Nelder

- A provision for enforcement, possibly via the Human Rights Commission;

- A provision to include the homeless;

- A provision for a 30-day cooling off period before termination of a domestic relationship.

Other concerns included a shared living expense clause.

Coles said the draft legislation was far from complete and there was a considerable time ahead to polish it into a document that addresses the realities of gay and lesbian domestic relationships.

"We'll continue taking it around like we did five years ago so we'll be ready when the Board of Supervisors has hearings in April on the part of the legislation that is a city ordinance," Coles said.

The legislation is split into two ordinances and a non-binding resolution that would put in place an experimental program to give health insurance to a limited segment of domestic partners of city employees.

MAYOR LIKES IDEA

A spokesman for Agnos said the mayor supported the Britt legislation in some form that would also recognize elderly members of a household. Scott Shafer added that Agnos had yet to augment the Britt legislation with his own ideas, but a task force to study the ramifications of alternative families law was in the works.

The name change of the ordinance from domestic partners to alternative families, according to Coles, may likely be changed back to domestic partners in its final form.

Meanwhile Sup. Wendy Nelder is pursuing her own legislation that rivals Britt's called "The Extended Family Act." Nelder's draft would expand the access to health insurance as well as retirement benefits to domestic partners other than traditional spouse and children.

Nelder spokesman Stephen Johnson said the legislation would be considered for the first time at the end of February before the Government Operations Committee of the Board of

Supervisors.

The thrust of the legislation, Johnson said, was to provide "the necessities of life on a permanent basis" to these alternative relationships. Johnson would not say if Nelder would dovetail her legislation with Britt's alternative families approach.

In the two sections of the Britt legislation, a structure would be implemented to file a sworn statement with the city that a valid domestic partnership exists.

The second structure requires private employers to extend the same benefits of child care and bereavement that are enjoyed by married couples to non-traditional domestic partners.

Also cited as hospital patients who may be under limited visitation rights to permit access to a lover who may not normally be included even though he or she is a significant other.

Coles urged the gay and lesbian community to register their support of the Britt legislation, including their own input, by writing Board of Supervisors President Nancy Walker and Mayor Art Agnos. ●

AIDS Tax Credit Aims For Nov. Ballot

Mayor Art Agnos joined Sup. Harry Britt, San Mateo County Sup. Tom Nolan, Public Health Director David Werdegard, and Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock in announcing Feb. 17 the beginning of a campaign to qualify an AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative for the November 1988 ballot.

The AIDS Initiative Committee will also work to defeat repressive AIDS measures, including one backed by supporters of extremist Lyndon LaRouche that has qualified for the June ballot.

If approved by voters, the AIDS research initiative would allow Californians to take a tax credit for contributions to a newly created State AIDS Research Trust Fund. The measure is expected to raise an additional \$60 million a year for three years for AIDS research and education.

At present the state AIDS budget is \$70 million. "That's not enough," Agnos said. "State funding is far below what it must be for a truly effective campaign to prevent the spread of AIDS and help those who are already infected with it."

If the state was spending as much as San Francisco does on AIDS—\$14 per person—the California AIDS budget would be \$357 million, Agnos noted.

"This epidemic is too big a burden for any local government to carry by itself," he said, adding that the AIDS Research Fund will be of particular benefit to San Francisco, which is bearing a disproportionate share of AIDS costs.

Less than one-quarter of the state's AIDS budget goes toward research, education and vaccine development, even though a 1987 public opinion poll by Marvin Field found that 73 percent of respondents considered AIDS research a top spending priority.

The AIDS Tax Credit Initiative would allow Californians to contribute to the AIDS Research Trust Fund when they pay their taxes. Fifty-five percent of the amount contributed could then be credited against the taxpayer's total taxes owed, up to a limit of \$25 for individuals, \$50 for joint filing, and \$5,000 for corporations, trusts and estates.

The tax credit device is being used because a direct budget appropriation would bring the state

over its Gann spending limit.

Funds raised under the initiative would be administered by an appointive body called the AIDS Research Trust Board, which would be charged with making grants for research directed at vaccine development, medical treatment models, prevention education, epidemiology, and virus studies.

Sup. Britt said the initiative provides AIDS activists with an outstanding opportunity to present voters with a positive alternative to repressive AIDS ballot measures planned for the November ballot.

"I believe the voters will recognize that if you strip away confidentiality from AIDS testing and threaten to quarantine those who test positive for exposure to AIDS, you will just cause people to avoid medical care and run the risk of worsening this epidemic," Britt said.

"The smart thing to do to stop the AIDS epidemic is to provide funding to educate people about avoiding the AIDS virus and to find a cure," Britt continued. "That's what the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative is all about."

"This is a much-needed step toward a solution that cares about people, instead of one put forward for political gain by people like Lyndon LaRouche," Agnos said. "It deserves all our support."

The AIDS Tax Credit was originally presented in the State Legislature by Assemblyman Johann Klehs (D-San Leandro). Although the bill was unanimously adopted by the Legislature, Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed it. The measure was later presented to the legislature for placement on the June ballot, but failed passage.

About 600,000 signatures must be gathered by May 15 to qualify the measure for the November 1988 ballot. Anyone interested in further information or involvement in the campaign should contact the AIDS Initiative Committee at 621-6164. ●

IT'S LIVE! HOT TALK



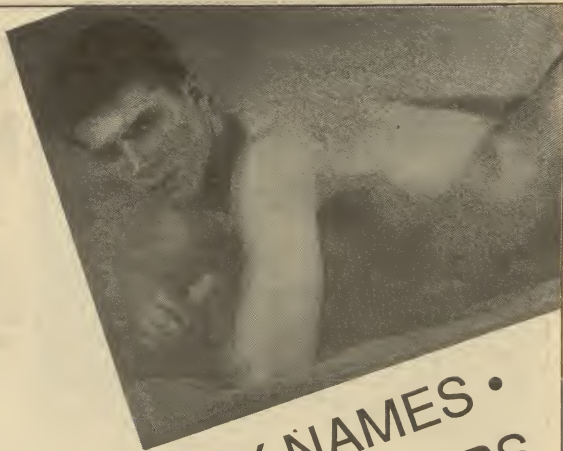
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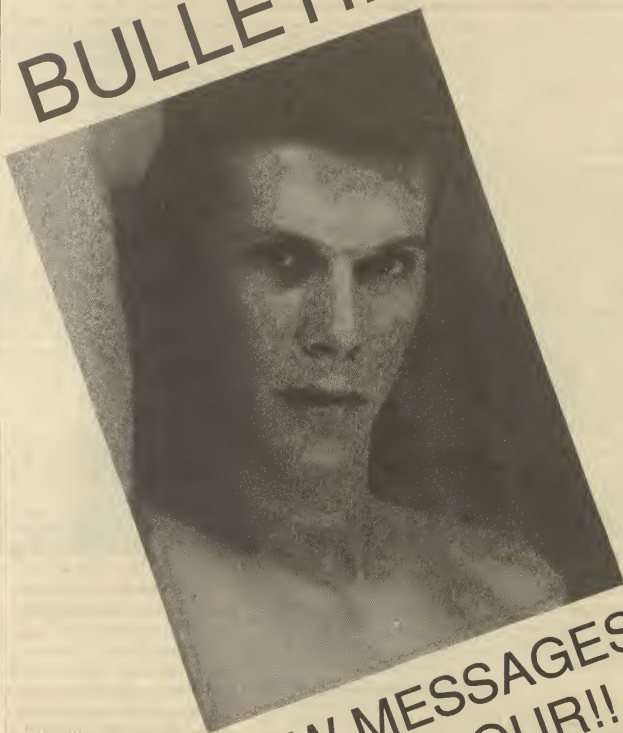
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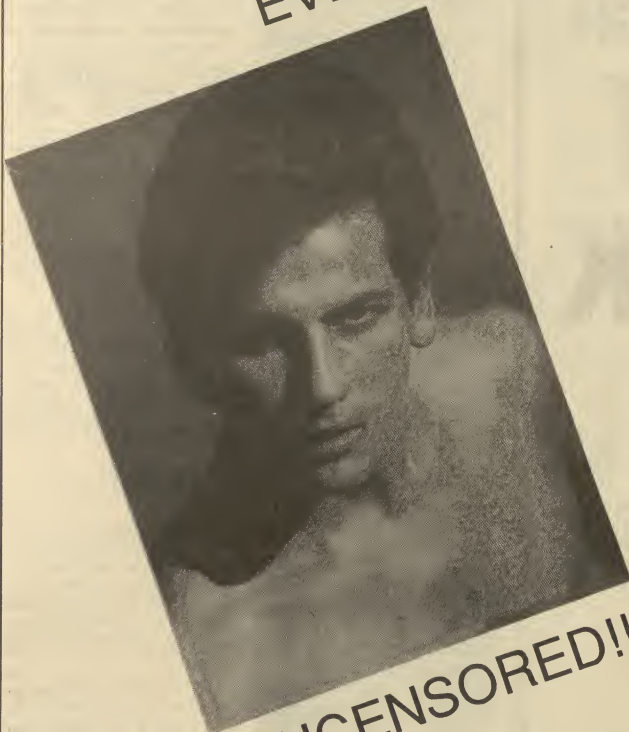
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Gay GOP Group Endorses Walker

Attorney's Critic Claims Political Deal

by Jay Newquist

Concerned Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) has endorsed the nomination of anti-Gay (Olympic) Games attorney Vaughn Walker to the U.S. Federal District Court for Northern California.

Walker represented the United States Olympic Committee against the late Dr. Tom Waddell in the unsuccessful landmark suit to use the term 'Olympic' for Gay Games. The case eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled 5-4 against Waddell.

CRIR first told a general public meeting recently that it would issue no endorsement of Walker, but later flipflopped and endorsed the attorney.

T.J. Anthony, a Walker opponent from the Feminist Men's Alliance and Coalition for Civil Rights, said CRIR had in effect sold itself for a few pieces of silver.

"These people will do anything to gain legitimacy for their organization," Anthony said.

Neither Walker or CRIR officials made themselves available for comment.

Anthony said CRIR endorsed Walker in exchange for Walker's support of CRIR president Brian Mavrogeorge in his bid for the 16th Assembly seat last held by San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos.

"Walker won't oppose Mavrogeorge because he [Walker] gets the endorsement he wants and everyone's happy."

The good news is the Walker nomination is lurching along

aimlessly and threatens to drop dead of its own weight, Anthony said.

He explained that Sen. Pete Wilson (R-CA) was able to nominate Walker for the U.S. Federal District Court by the tradition of legislative courtesy. A Republican President in the White House meant the judgeship nomination passed to California's Republican senator.

SERIOUS TROUBLE

President Reagan made the formal nomination of Walker last December, but a Senate vote that requires a majority is not pending at this time.

"The nomination is in serious trouble," Anthony said. "We oppose it and we made it crystal clear to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) who has an enormous influence over the selection process."

"If one of the senators in the nominee's state objects, then the nomination has no chance of confirmation."

(Continued on next page)

Operation Concern Seeks New Leadership For '90s

by Jay Newquist

Carole Migden is calling it quits after eight years as executive director of Operation Concern, but she's not ready to write her memoirs yet.

She'll work for presidential candidate Paul Simon in California if and when his campaign has legs, and she will remain a Democratic powerbroker in San Francisco.

But she's leaving Operation Concern at the end of March and it's the end of an era.



Migden is a bit tired after her time on the battlements. She said the pioneers of the gay and lesbian movement needed reinforcements, but she remained blunt and in command.

"It's time to move on and seek other pursuits," Migden said last week. "Operation Concern is solid, stable and well-equipped to face new projects in the 1990s. I feel a profound sense of accomplishment."

Operation Concern has struggled since 1973 to gain an identity and earn the respect of its indirect fiscal support from the Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center.

FAR FROM COMPLETE

Migden said the fight has in many ways paralleled the progress of the lesbian and gay movement. "Our funding sources respect us for our gay and lesbian sensitivity and for the quality of our services, but we still have to compete for grants, and gay and lesbian services are never seen as nationally topical."

"We've been effective, but the work is far from complete. We must be vigilant. Attitudes are slow to change and we can't be complacent about the progress we've already made."

Migden pinpointed three of her principle goals for Operation Concern:

- OC had outgrown its facility at 1853 Market and would likely consider satellite offices;

- OC would have to answer the demand for more diverse services than simple counseling;

- OC had to address its perception and understanding by the community.

Migden won't depart until her successor is named and she is able to train her replacement, but she admits the executive-director's post is hard to fill.

"The need for management and fundraising skills and a lesbian/gay identity can lead people into private industry," Migden said. "My replacement must have a predisposition to do community-based work."

"We don't necessarily need a psychologist, but someone who has a working knowledge of people and clinical understanding. A graduate degree doesn't tell much."

Migden said Operation Concern had not received a flood of promising resumes thus far and the deadline for applications was March 11. Applicants should write to: Deborah Kelly, Operation Concern, 1853 Market, San Francisco CA 94103.

DON'T FORGET RESPONSIBILITY

In her parting plea for non-AIDS-related individual services, Migden was distressed that this funding suffered by a degree of neglect. "I'm 100 percent behind AIDS funding; it's the most grievous health problem we've ever faced."

"But non-AIDS funding just doesn't stir up a lot of emotional interest, and we can't lose sight of individual responsibility," she said.

What does Migden see for the gay and lesbian movement as she observes from those aforementioned battlements?

"We have sustained great losses, but I find the current wave of civil disobedience is a great energizer."



Carol Migden (Photo: S. Savage)

MEN YOU CAN REACH



CALL NOW



989-1313



NGLTF Seeks Violence Data

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is preparing its annual audit of anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence in 1987, and seeks local figures on such incidents. Individuals and groups aware of anti-gay episodes that occurred in their communities last year are encouraged to contact NGLTF.

NGLTF has already contacted more than 150 local and state organizations across the U.S. requesting statistical data and anecdotal information on anti-gay/lesbian episodes in 1987. If you or your group have information on local violence or harassment—but did not receive a report from NGLTF—please contact Kevin Berrill at NGLTF as soon as possible to learn who in your area is collecting violence data for NGLTF.

Contact Kevin Berrill at NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 332-6483.

CRIR

(Continued from previous page)

Anthony said Cranston had already turned thumbs down when he received a questionnaire supplied by the Senate Judiciary Committee to oppose or support Walker. Cranston opted for "blue slipping" or tacitly opposing the Walker nomination by refusing to return the questionnaire.

The Walker nomination is hence on hold, Anthony said, but if it is eventually considered there will be an investigation into the reasons for the opposition.

Anthony said Walker was in "desperate shape to get this job" and he was trying to "fast track" the nomination and blunt the opposition, including the unlikely courtship of the gay CRIR.

"They are Republicans first and gay second," Anthony said. "It doesn't seem to matter that Walker waged a personal attack against Tom Waddell even during the last days of his life."

SO-SO JURIST

Anthony criticized Walker as a so-so jurist whose scandalous lack of legal experience was reflected in the fact he had argued only twice before a jury in his 16-year career.

Anthony reminded gays and lesbians that the City of San Francisco came out against the Walker nomination. A cross section of prominent members of the gay and lesbian community also sent a letter opposing Walker to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

What grates Anthony more than anything is how CRIR has "turned against its own" to support Walker.

"How dare they (CRIR) say they speak for the gay and lesbian community!" Anthony complained. "They don't need speeches to talk about justice for gays and lesbians in court."

"They need a therapist in group sessions!"



Letters: The liveliest community forum. Every week in Bay Area Reporter.



HRS Blames Hysteria Over AIDS As Bias Complaints Go Up

by Gregory Douthwaite

A record number of discrimination complaints were handled by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Lesbian/Gay Unit last year. A total of 146 complaints of anti-gay and AIDS discrimination were investigated, up from 137 the previous year. Eighty-eight complaints of anti-gay discrimination were investigated, up from 72 the year before. The increase could be due to mounting AIDS hysteria, said Norm Nickens, the commission's AIDS representative.

However, complaints of AIDS discrimination declined slightly, from 65 to 58. The decrease could be due to an extensive, city-wide campaign on AIDS in the workplace, said Nickens.

"Most employers now know that discrimination against people with AIDS is illegal," he said. "The environment for employees (with AIDS) is improving."

AIDS discrimination is still a significant problem in San Francisco, Nickens said. The commission has received a number of complaints about dentists refusing to treat patients when informed that they are HIV positive, he said. A new educational program

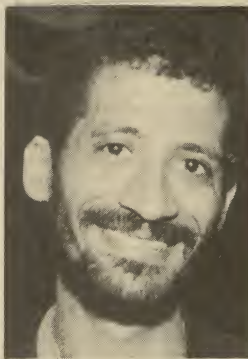
is planned to counter this problem, he said.

The total amount of financial settlements rose substantially last year. Complainants were awarded a total of \$33,045, up from \$20,000 the year before.

The average amount of time taken to respond to a complaint declined sharply, from 50 days to about 21. This is particularly important for people with AIDS, whose average lifespan is just 13 months, Nickens said.

Examples of complaints investigated were included in the Lesbian/Gay Unit's annual report. Among them:

- A waiter complained that,



Norm Nickens (Photo: M. Whitlock)

after he was hospitalized with ARC, he asked the restaurant manager for his job back, and it was denied. The manager said other waiters and customers might express concern about his medical condition. A settlement was reached whereby the employer agreed to continue the waiter's health insurance benefits for 18 months.

- When a woman told her boss that her husband had been hospitalized with AIDS, he told her she would have to take the AIDS antibody test every six months for the next five years and report back to him with the

results, or she would be fired. He said this was for her protection and to relieve the concerns of the other employees. Under the terms of the settlement, the testing requirement was rescinded, the woman was compensated for time lost from work during the investigation and given time off for hospital visits, and the employer agreed to conduct an AIDS In The Workplace educational presentation with the help of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

- A gay man working in a bank complained that after he confidentially disclosed his sexual orientation to a supervisor, he was approached by another supervisor. She asked him if he engaged in sex with men, and said she "wanted to tell other employees because it was important for them to know." When he later complained about the increasing rumors, gossip, and anti-gay hostility, management retaliated by punishing him for minor work-related infractions which they ignored in other employees. An investigation uncovered evidence of discrimination, and the bank agreed to a settlement of \$8,000. The bank will also provide a staff training on AIDS and sexual orientation discrimination with the help of the Human Rights Commission. •

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DEATHS

Tim Neader

Tim died peacefully Feb. 16 at the age of 31, following a four-month battle with AIDS.

Born and raised in Marietta, Ohio, Tim left home to join the Air Force at 17. Afterwards, he lived briefly in Houston and attended college in San Diego before settling in San Francisco in 1981. During his six years here, he worked in sales and management for several major health food stores.



Tim was known to friends and family as a kind and gentle man who never let the "daily grind" dampen his spirit of adventure, his playfulness, and his boundless enthusiasm for life. He continually bombarded us with new discoveries of films, obscure poems, and recycled objects d'art. He is especially remembered for his broad knowledge of nutrition and his fanatical love of music—both of which he insistently shared with his friends.

Tim's twinkling blue eyes and frantic enthusiasm lit up our lives, and will remain etched in our hearts forever. Anyone wanting more information can call 931-9702.

Donald Borgen

On the 9th of February our beloved friend Don passed away in Idaho, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

We remember our friend for his passion of bridge games, his creative entertaining, his enjoyment in traveling, and most of all his genuine humor.

Don was a generous person and held a strong affection for his friends.



He certainly will be missed at the bridge table, as well as at the many social events.

Throughout his suffering he always kept his keen sense of humor and his compassion towards his many friends.

Don was born in Idaho, lived and worked in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. He located to San Francisco in 1980 and immediately won friendship with so many.

It will be difficult to reminisce about any social event in the past eight years without reflecting on Don's presence.

Bon Voyage buddy.

A memorial service will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church at 150 Eureka St. on Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m. ●

Martin Heinz

May 1949-January 1988

Wäre der Tod nicht, es würde keiner das Leben schätzen. Man hätte vielleicht nicht einmal einen Namen dafür.

TODESANZEIGE

Our loving son, dear brother, brother-in-law, godfather, grandfather, and dearest most loving friend, Martin Heinz, has left us in the 38th year of his life after a brief and severe illness. We will miss him immensely.



With his giving nature and constant loyalty he will always be remembered by those who knew him. We thank Martin for his smile, his laughter, his caring, his love. Our lives are bettered by his existence.

Martin is survived by his parents, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews in Switzerland. In tiefer trauer: Anna and Simon Heinz-Veraugh; Margrih and Edmund Höllriegel-Heinz, Rudolf, Edi, Toni, Martina, and Simon, Avers-Pürt, Switzerland; Ruedi and Käthi Heinz-Huber, Gaby and Patrick, Andelfingen, Switzerland; Anton and Ursi Heinz-Auer, Ronny and Bino, Chur, Switzerland.

In deepest sorrow, Martin will live in our hearts forever: Tony Silva, Domenic Fandetti, Scott Lasswell, and Bob Coe, San Francisco; Bill Granger, Philadelphia.

If there were no death, no one would appreciate life. It is time to rest now old friend. Wir lieben dich. ●

Timothy G. Lee
1950-1988

Born in Denver, Tim came to the city in 1980. Very fondly remembered by his many friends at the Men's Room, The Village, and The Koptik, Tim is truly missed.

Tim and his lover Ron moved to the Russian River with Tim's mother, Rosanna, in 1986. Tim wanted to be near his two best friends, Bob and Neal.



His superb sense of humor won a number of friends at Molly Brown's.

Besides his lover, Ron, his mother, several brothers and sisters, he is survived by a son in Denver.

A celebration of Tim's life will be held at The Koptik Friday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m. Donations to Face To Face, Guernville, CA 95446.

For further information, contact Le-Ona at 775-3260. ●

Daryl C. Dennett

12/8/62-12/7/87

At age 24, only one day before his 25th birthday, absent from any pain or suffering, Daryl left this world peacefully with his family by his side at a Pinole, California hospital.

He is survived by his parents, Patricia and Theodore, brother Douglas, grandparents Mr. and Mrs. L.S. Apel, and his beloved dog, Charlie.



Daryl, who has touched our hearts and lives with his, is now gone from this world to continue his journey. A part of him will always remain with us. As time passes, the sadness and grief will hopefully subside, and the beautiful memories will comfort us.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of love and friendship can be made to the Shanti Project, 525 Howard, San Francisco 94105. These contributions represent a continuum of Daryl's life, and will help those who are still fighting for their lives.

Those friends and acquaintances whose Daryl's life has touched with his charm, spirit and loving heart, will join together Sunday, Feb. 28, in celebration and remembrance at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka, S.F., at 1 p.m. All are welcome. Call 863-4434 for more information. ●

Ronald C. Dykstra
10/16/48-2/13/88

After a long and valiant battle with cancer, Ron Dykstra died in San Francisco on Feb. 13 at age 39.

Ron was born in Oregon City, Oregon, attended St. John's Elementary and Oregon City High, and graduated from San Francisco State University. He was at one time departmental manager for the Emporium, was a flight crew member of Trans International Airlines, and the manager of a vineyard in Sonoma County.



Ron managed several construction projects at Russian River resorts between 1977 and 1981. He was selected as "Mr. Russian River" a few years ago.

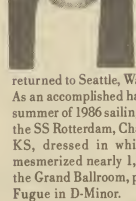
Ron is survived by his parents, Elaine and Charles Dykstra, his sisters Caren, Faye, and Terri, and so many good friends.

Donations may be made to Catholic Charities AIDS-ARC, PAWS, and the S.F. AIDS Foundation.

A memorial mass will be celebrated at the Jesuit Community Chapel, 650 Parker St., (adjacent to St. Ignatius Church) San Francisco, at 11 a.m., Saturday Feb. 27. ●

Charles Francis Adams
9/26/46-2/18/88

At his parents' home in Tacoma, Washington, Charlie moved peacefully into that realm known as eternity. A native of Pullman, Washington, he received his Master's from WSU and served in the Marine Corps during Vietnam. He moved to San Francisco in 1980 to join Intel Corporation. When Intel relocated to Chicago, Norman Zell (Intel's CEO), recognizing Charlie's brilliance, offered him Director of Legal Services. The dilemma of leaving San Francisco became painfully easy when he learned on Dec. 9, 1985 (five days before Andy Kline's death) that he, like his lover, had AIDS.



Referring to be closer to family and lifetime friends, Charlie returned to Seattle, Washington in 1986. As an accomplished harpist, in the summer of 1986 sailing to Alaska aboard the SS Rotterdam, Charlie (weakened by KS, dressed in white tie and tails) mesmerized nearly 1,000 passengers in the Grand Ballroom, performing Bach's Fugue in D-Minor.

Charlie returned to San Francisco in August, 1987 to co-host the Fourth Annual Mae West "Come Up And See Me Sometime" fundraising party for persons with AIDS. Those wishing to celebrate Charlie's memory may call Scott Reiber at 861-3376 for a party in Charlie's honor.

"I love you, Chuck; may God Himself joyously welcome you into His world of everlasting life!"

—Your friend, Scott. ●

Michael William Click

Father Michael William Click passed away at 3:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, of complications due to AIDS. With him at home were his lover, Scott, his sister Janice, his parents, and several close friends.



A priest of the Episcopal Church, Michael was devoted to God, to the ministry of healing, and worked for the cause of peace. His love of music and his appreciation of beauty in all its forms enriched his ministry and the lives of all whom he touched. We who love him are thankful for the gift of his life.

A memorial service will be held at The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St., at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28. In lieu of flowers, please send any gifts or donations to the AIDS Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of California. ●

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Second Sunday in Lent
Morning Worship with
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B.A.R.

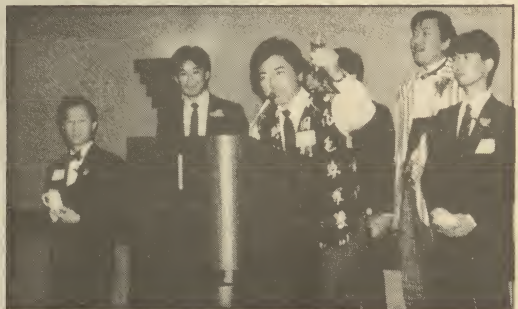
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Asian/Pacific Gays Installation of Officers

Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays, members and friends gathered at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in January to install its recently elected and appointed 1988 board. Representatives from Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, the City of West Hollywood, and the 55th Assembly District of the California Legislature honored A/PLG with certificates recognizing the contributions the organization has made to the gay and lesbian community. They were joined by members of Black and White Men Together, the Gay Asian Rap, Whitman/Brooks, the Stonewall Democratic Club, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Ms. Sally Jue, from the AIDS Project Los Angeles and a member of A/PLG's Board of Advisors, spoke on A/PLG's expanding role in both the gay and straight Asian communities, especially in areas dealing with the AIDS crisis. Five members and the A/PLG AIDS Intervention Team Committee were presented with Certificates



1986 A/PLG President Ray Kawasaki toasts the 1988 Board

of Appreciation from the 1987 Steering Committee for their contributions to the goals of A/PLG. 1987 president and vice-president, Hoang Phan and Leonard Eloriaga, presented the first annual Presidential Awards to Dean Goishi and Milt Owens for their outstanding dedication and hard work on behalf of the organization.

Roy Kawasaki, 1986 A/PLG

president, installed the following board members and committee chairs: President, Hoang Phan; Vice-President, Ed Goka; Secretary, Dean Goishi; Treasurer, Bert Estrada; Delegates-at-Large, An Tieu and Philip Eng; Cultural/Education chair, Augustinus Justan; Special Events chair, Victor Thong; Publication chair, Bruce Britton; and Membership Outreach chair, Ron Thammawat-anakul. ●

Royalty

(Continued from page 1)

An elated Rascher said, "I feel wonderful. I don't believe this but I do feel wonderful." He again promised to fulfill his campaign promises. "I'm going to raise those monies for people with AIDS who are homeless. I'm going to raise money for anti-gay violence and I'm going to help with the court system so that it's marketed properly for the entire community and San Francisco as well, which is what I said I would to begin with."

A marketing expert may prove just the thing for San Francisco's court system. The group of gay royalty has been moving through some rough waters recently with a series of thorny and controversial issues.

During the last two years, several candidates have been told they would not be accepted to run for the Emperor or Empress titles. This past week there were additional issues raised about the process of appointing people to the Imperial Family, which in effect, gives appointees a vote.

If they didn't have enough problems about titles and appointments, the group came under attack from several quarters for eliminating a tier of lower price tickets for last Saturday night's event. Many people speculated that the high drink prices at the Sheraton-Palace coupled with the increased ticket price simply made the event too expensive for large parts of the gay community.

Representing the view of many, Phyllis, the 16th Empress commented, "There used to be a lot of people who used to be involved in the gay Emperor and Empress trip who cannot afford to come anymore. I'm tried of going to hotels and giving them gay money when we should have a gay community center which we should be able to support."

The Empress recalled her own Coronation. "My ball was at the California Hall, so was Tessie's and Ginger's. We made money and the drinks were sensibly priced. At that time anyone who wanted to go to a ball could without paying such prices to get in and they felt they were involved. They wanted to be involved." She mentioned, as did many, that there had been a presumption that hotel drinks prices began at \$4.50. In fact, the prices started at \$3.50.

CLARIFICATION

The Imperial Board of Trustees have also been under substantial pressure for their decision the last two years to reject candidates for Emperor and Empress titles. To clarify their position, they took a full page in their program to provide a statement of their policy and procedure. They stated, "Governing Boards are seldom very popular but, if our Monarchy is to survive, it is necessary to fulfill all obligations, assume all responsibilities and adhere to all rules, whatever the intimidation because of dissatisfaction."

They further stated, "The Board of Trustees has full responsibility for interviewing and approving candidates for the Offices of Emperor and Empress" and presenting several court events. They stressed that the titleholders can raise much money and "there must not be any opportunity for any kind of wrongdoing."

The statement continued, "The Board, accordingly, makes a value judgement concerning an applicant as to the probability of



The new royal couple's first walk

(Photo: S. Martin)



No one has ever looked so happy giving up his reign

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



Slapping hands with the new Empress at Coronation '88

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

the applicant being able to properly hold the office. Past, present and probably future are all considered in the Board's deliberations. An applicant is not a candidate unless or until the Imperial Board of Trustees approves that applicant as a candidate."

Of the voting process they say, "There is no appeal and write-in votes will not be counted. Write-in ballots are destroyed by the C.P.A. (Certified Public Accountant), and no accounting is made of the number of write-in votes cast, if any."

The person most recently and directly affected by the ruling was

Deena Jones. When rejected as a candidate, a group of Jones supporters began a write-in campaign. It would appear to have been unsuccessful. Over 1,200 ballots were tabulated, making this the highest voter turnout in the history of the San Francisco court system. A total of 1,125 votes were cast in the Empress race and 1,124 were cast for Emperor. Spokespersons noted that many people vote only for one single candidate. No indication was given of the number of write-in votes that were destroyed.

Flame, a former Empress and the current Grand Duchess was

ecstatic with the results crediting "Steve Rasher's organizational ability outside the royalty in the illustrious gay community." Of Lily Street's victory she said, "She won by a landslide. The largest number of votes ever for an Empress."

Rising above the cramped seating and inferior sound system in the hotel ballroom was a genuine affection for the Empress and Emperor who were completing their reign. Just before he made his final walk as Emperor, Patrick McGonigle was joined on the stage by his lover Rich Carle and his mother, Mary

McGonigle. As Mrs. McGonigle joined her son, the audience rose to their feet giving the woman a wild cheering welcome.

SATISFACTION

For Tina Tanner the evening was a time for reflection and satisfaction. "I am very proud of my year. We did a lot of benefits and I know I did a good job. So, I feel very good about it. I am very proud of our reign. Patrick and I probably got along better than any two monarchs have in the history of the court system. We had a great year."

Part of that great year was presenting a check Saturday night for \$2,500 to the Metropolitan Community Church's Project Rest Stop and another check for \$1,000 to Ruth Brinker's Open Hand. During the reign of Empress Tina and Emperor Patrick, over \$10,000 was raised for community charities through presentation of at least one fundraiser a month.

The official hotel was the San Franciscan at 8th and Market. With the Sheraton-Palace just down Market at Montgomery, it became an easy commute by BART and the Muni Metro. The sight of dozens of drag queens boarding the Muni Metro dazzled and amused tourists and natives alike. At the Sheraton-Palace the underground commuters were met by others who chose to arrive in the many limousines that lined Montgomery Street.

Arriving from Phoenix was Jose, the city's first Empress now known simply as the Widow Norton. Commenting he said, "The Widow Norton is happy because for the first time in a long time, I think we had a successful evening. It clicked. I think small room, big crowd. What the court is doing is what Emperor Norton was doing when he was alive which was to be very humane. This is what we have to do. We have to stop this bickering. We have to unite otherwise we're going to have the same bullshit like they have in Arizona . . . an idiot." The reference was to Evan Mecham, the recently impeached Arizona Governor.

The structure of the room made it hard for the audience to focus on much of the evening's entertainment. Two who were successful were Shannon and Pat Montclair. Shannon is a larger than life version of Dolly Parton. The former Empress of Reno and Sacramento had the place jumping.

With incredible energy, Pat Monclair bounded on the stage and down the runway in a lively musical production. The presentation, which also included The Mint's Mark Frieser, was tied to the presentation of Emperor candidate Stanley Boyd.

This annual event is somewhat of a pilgrimage for many to the foundation of the court system. "It's a blast. This is my first San Francisco coronation and it's absolutely incredible," said Jessie, the 16th Empress of San Diego. "I go to coronations all over the country. They know how to treat us here. It's my duty to come here. To me it's the roots of the whole drag movement."

There were representatives from courts from all across the country. They ranged from Los Angeles to Portland and from Hawaii to Alaska. Gay royalty made the trip from Nebraska as well as Boise, Idaho.

With a great amount of flair, the new Empress Lily Street posed for photographers and naughtily, yet simply stated, "My committee has told me to be nice . . . at least until after the brunch." ●

Suit Charges Funeral Society With Cover-Up

Neptune Scattered Ashes By Mistake; Family Claims Evasion Of Liability

by Miranda Kolbe

A suit brought by survivors of Robert Saari, who died of AIDS in January 1985, against the Neptune Funeral Society will be heard at San Francisco Superior Court on Feb. 29. Saari's lover, Patrick Hinrichsen, along with Tyme Saari and Peggy Dowling, Saari's mother and sister, charge that the Neptune Society erroneously disposed of Robert's remains. They then acted in a "continued, shocking, pointless and clumsy attempt to cover up facts and evade liability," according to their lawyer for the suit, Tom Steele. The plaintiffs are seeking \$150,000 in damages.

That the funeral society failed to return Hinrichsen's lover's ashes to him as requested is undisputed. The plaintiffs' settlement conference statement explains that a Neptune employee signed Hinrichsen's name to a release form by mistake, and thereby gave the Society control over the disposition of Saari's remains. Representatives of the funeral society have maintained that the ashes were scattered at sea with Neptune's usual, non-denominational service.

When asked about the impending trial, Richard Jongordon, head of the Neptune Society, stated, "The ashes were to be returned to his friend, who was to scatter them at sea by his hand, but instead we did it by our own facility. The only difference was who did it. It was a mistake on our part and we readily admit that."

Jongordon refused to comment on other aspects of the case prior to the trial.

Steele said, however, "Part of our case will be that you can't believe a word Neptune says. They've been lying about every-

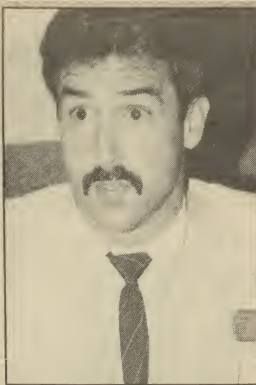
thing and everyone in an effort to cover up and disclaim liability for what happened."

According to Steele, part of the cover-up attempt was made by Jason Derr, an employee of the Society. Derr testified that Saari's mother called him after Neptune had mistakenly signed Hinrichsen's name to the permit. Derr said Saari's mother told him she was satisfied with Neptune's disposition of her son's remains.

Tyme Saari, however, denied that this phone call ever took place. Her phone bills show no record of placing this call.

Steele also said that after Hinrichsen discovered the mistake, he spoke with Frederick Hertz, the lawyer who had been representing him at that time. He asked Hertz to speak with Neptune. Hertz called Richard Jongordon to ask that Hinrichsen be given time to contact Saari's mother and sister to let them know what had happened before Neptune did.

Hertz maintained that Jongordon agreed to his request. However, immediately upon hanging



Tom Steele (Photo: Rink)

up, Jongordon called Tyme Saari and Dowling, according to Steele, Jongordon's phone records verify that this call was made.

Steele contends that Jongordon told them Neptune had chosen to scatter Saari's ashes at sea with a service, because Hinrichsen had planned to have a party with liquor while he was scattering the ashes, and Neptune felt this to be inappropriate.

Hertz spoke with Jongordon again to remonstrate him for attempting to set Saari and Dowling against Hinrichsen, said Steele. Hertz testified in deposition that Jongordon had offered to send Hinrichsen on a vacation to Las Vegas or Hawaii as a form of compensation. When Hertz rejected this suggestion, Jongordon said he might be required to send Saari's death certificate to his mother, unless Hertz cooperated. Hertz refused and Jongordon sent the death certificate to Tyme Saari. She had been unaware that her son had died of AIDS.

While Jongordon's action was not illegal, it was "extremely unusual and inappropriate," according to Steele. "Even the defendant's own expert witness, who is a funeral industry person, said a responsible funeral director would never do such a thing for the very reason that the cause of death might be sensitive." ●

Achtenberg

(Continued from page 1)

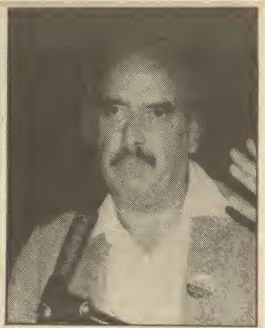
that up until now there has been no response from Burton.

A telephone call to Burton headquarters produced a response from campaign manager Richard Ross. He said that the challenge arrived only last Thursday, and the problem was in "coming up with a mutually agreeable time."

But Achtenberg doubted a debate would be held. "I think their strategy is to keep John Burton as hidden as they possibly can. He didn't even show up at the state building to vie for the Democratic party nod in this election. And one of the places I am sure he doesn't want to be is with me debating on television."

Should the debate actually transpire, Achtenberg plans to bring up a variety of topics, including ethics in government, campaign financing reform, environmental issues, human service, and health care.

At the top of her discussion list would be AIDS-related issues. Achtenberg feels that the burden of AIDS awareness and prevention has been on the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community for too long. One of the greatest motivating factors for her to run in this race, she said, was that Ag-



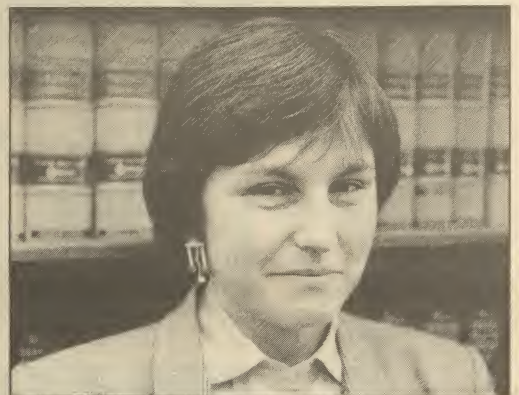
John Burton (Photo: Rink)

nos' outspoken and often lone voice about AIDS concerns would be sorely missed in the state Legislature.

GRASSROOTS POLITICS

Achtenberg questions Burton's knowledge of AIDS and "his willingness to do something vocal and in a leadership capacity with respect to that. I don't know what John understands about AIDS-related discrimination."

She sees her opponent as an autocratic liberal who may have made accomplishments in the past. She styles herself as a progressive of the new politics, "someone who does not for the people, but with them... today."



Roberta Achtenberg

(Photo: S. Martin)

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
- By taking the test, you find out whether or not you can infect others.
- Regardless of the result, testing often increases a person's commitment to overall good health habits.
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**

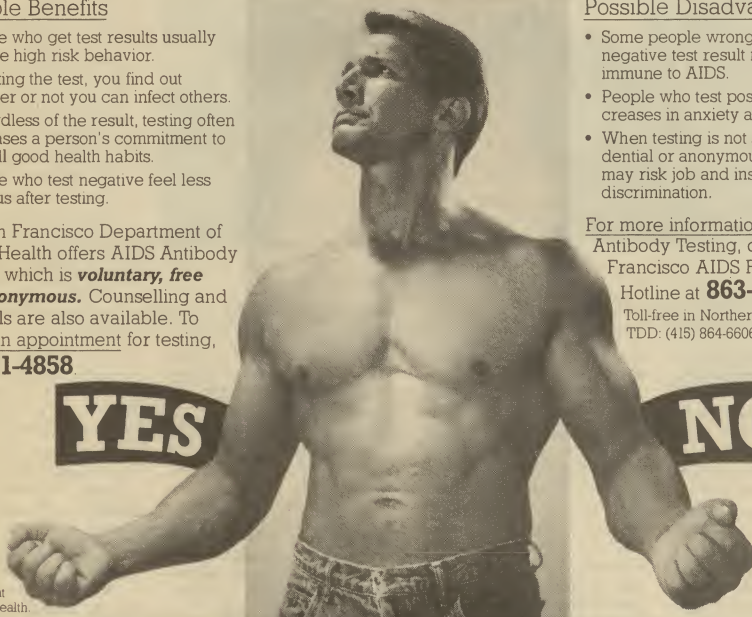
Possible Disadvantages

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show increases in anxiety and depression.
- When testing is not strictly confidential or anonymous, some people may risk job and insurance discrimination.

For more information about AIDS

Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Hotline at **863-AIDS**
Toll-free in Northern CA: (800) FOR-AIDS
TDD: (415) 864-6606

Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health.



GET THE FACTS.

CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS.

THEN DECIDE.



Among the people who agree are Sups. Richard Hongisto and Harry Britt, Pat Norman, Julie Tang, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, Tim Wolfred, as well as all three San Francisco gay Democratic clubs, and the California National Organization for Women.

Achtenberg does not feel hindered by overwhelmingly large support from gay organizations as opposed to a more culturally homogenous constituency. "I'm proud to come from a sexual minority community. It is a good place to come from in terms of ability to deal with all the issues that a representative has to deal with," she said. "It's not a narrowing experience—far from it."

She says she feels an obligation to represent the people on a grass-roots level, not the special interest groups and lobbyists. "I have found when you talk to people about their concerns and issues, they are the most articulate and knowledgeable about them, and they have the most to say about how those problems can be solved," she stated.

Her message to the voters is, "It's important that whenever possible we should try and take the power for ourselves. The power is never freely given. From their [the establishment's] point of view it will never be our time. They don't just slide over and let us have something. We have to take it. This is one of those times we can take it. If we get out and vote." ●

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Stanford Remembers

The Stanford University community turned out last Thursday, Feb. 18, at a special commemoration on campus to honor those who have died of AIDS. The special service, Stanford Cares: A Community Response, paid tribute to faculty, staff and alumni who have died of the disease.

Panels of the Names Project Quilt were displayed Thursday and Friday in Memorial Auditorium. In a memorial service on Thursday, friends and family gave brief remembrances of those who have died.

That evening a benefit concert featuring Stanford musicians and singers was held to raise funds for the ARIS Project in Santa Clara County and the ELLIPSE Center in San Mateo County. The two groups provide services to people with AIDS.

The letters and essays associated with the quilts displayed will be placed in the university archives as a permanent memorial to victims of AIDS.



People stayed after the service to look and wonder
(Photo: S. Savage)



It was a moving memorial service
(Photo: S. Savage)

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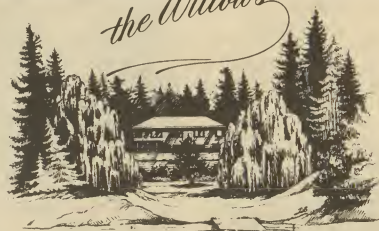
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Speaking Of . . .

BASH'S INCLUSIVE-DOMICILE (A "Visiting" Nose)

Valentine's Day was open house for BASH #1, and an unprecedented crowd was welcomed by the docents. The guides were easily recognizable in their white T-shirts, trimmed in red, with "I'm a BASH Volunteer" imprinted on the front. At one point, each and every chaperone was busy escorting and explaining to their assembled followers.

The house wasn't totally finished, however, but there was enough completed to express the feeling of "Don't you just want to move right in?" Even without the bathrooms and kitchen finished, one could not help but get the sense of all the work that had been accomplished.

Each room had "before" pictures displayed, and posters giving credit to the people who had worked, donated, or supervised that particular room. The list of credits is too numerous to mention here, and human nature would surely cause an unintentional deletion or two. Suffice it to say that those who did do, did do well. If you remember the movie *Pocketful of Miracles* with Bette Davis you can appreciate the total make-over of this first house.

When queried about the possibilities of assigning two or three people to a room in House #2, Mama Chuckles answered, "That's all fine and good, but some people can't hammer (like me) and what if that room required a lot of hammering? It just wouldn't work out too well." He was quick to add, "About house #2, I want all to know that Mama Chuckles will be in charge!"

There's lots to be done, and all volunteers will be eagerly welcomed. If interested, you can obtain the location by calling BASH 632-0325. And yes, Mama, I'll get you your early Christmas



Sandy Van plays Big Mama's March 13

present. Why not two? One for #1 and one for #2.

GAMBLING GAMBLING (A "Hit Me" Nose)

The latest in a series of Casino Nights was held at Town & Country Valentine's Day evening, and the place was packed with eager spectators, boneshakers and adventurers. Several 21 tables, a crap table, wheel of fortune, and roulette wheel embellished the T&C for the benefit of In Memory Foundation and BASH.

When the games closed, any left over chips couldn't be cashed in for, well, cash. Instead, they were traded for raffle tickets which proffered varied and sundry gifts. No, I wasn't fortunate enough to have any chips left over to participate. (Why do I always get a 10 when I hit a 13?)

The "big" raffle of the evening was for a real reel slot machine, and wouldn't you know it, a last-minute purchase to buy the remaining few tickets—won! Yep! It was a ticket purchased by T&C. There was some amount of resentment registered, but the draw was fair and square. Sam did tell the crowd that the machine would, indeed, go up for some other auction in the future.

The take that night was an amazing \$2,076, plus \$28 from a plant arrangement auction. Val Souza gave me the current financial figures for In Memory Foundation: Turf Club Casino Night \$247.50; B&B Casino Night 1,381; B&B Miss \$1.98 1,865.10; T&C Casino Night 2,104. Total \$5,597.60

One half of the proceeds went to IMC (\$2,798.80) and one half

went to BASH (\$2,798.80). IMF's bank account showed a balance of \$1,754.49, so total assets amount to \$4,553.29. It would have been even higher had it not been for more than \$1,800 impounded by the Feds when A.C.I.E. was dissolved.

COIN COLLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS (A "Who's Gonna Roll 'Em' Nose)

A suggestion was made that each bar designate a favorite charity and put in a huge collection bottle for "spare change." After a period of time, all monies would be pooled, and divided equally between the named charities.

Mama Chuckles is sort of spearheading the idea, so contact him if you want more details. Sam, of T&C, volunteered to coordinate his place, Cabel's Reef, and Bella Napoli.

HOTCHPOTCH (A Ragout Nose)

Speaking of collecting coins, Town & Country has been soliciting pennies for several months, and the "Whopper Coppers" totaled \$53.50. That amount was donated to East Bay Assistance Fund.

Speaking of T&C, the reservations for its Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, March 19, are selling fast. Seating will be limited, so get in there and get your ticket(s).

Speaking of tickets (as in, "I've got a ticket to ride...") T&C's bus trip to Reno on the weekend of March 26/27, is filling up quickly, too. It should be a really fun weekend, what with the Hilton giving the group a hot dog and drink! I hope that's one per person and not one for all!

Speaking of hot dogs, I was told by Ugly Sister #5 that there would, indeed, be a "Witches in White"! "The 'Witches' and the

'Bitches' are planning," said US#5, "and it's coming, so stay tuned." No definite site has been established as yet. So, stay tuned!

Speaking of ugly, get ready for April Floozie's Day, arriving naturally on Friday, April 1, at Town & Country. Tentatively subtitled "Knock 'Em Up and Drag 'Em Out," this particular soiree will feature a drag-out between the Revelettes and the T&C Dollies. What with the recent Miss \$1.98 pageant, and now this, every thrift store must have bare cupboards, to say the least. One participant from the Dollies showed me a preview of one of his costumes. Are we really ready for a nellie alien? In this day and age of cars wearing bras and sunglasses, I guess we can expect just about anything.

Speaking of expecting, on Wednesday, March 16, Dr. Sidel will officially open the AIDS Ward at Highland Hospital.

Speaking of openings, Little Mother informed me she is coming out of retirement soon, and will have two auctions in Oakland and one in Hayward, and she needs salable merchandise. Antiques, bric-a-brac, knickknacks, collectibles—all will be appreciated, and picked up by calling her at 562-9826. You don't suppose there could be yet another of those Marilyn Monroe calendars, do you?

Speaking of calendars, the calendar year of 1987 showed that Silber Distributors, through its unique Silcare Program, has contributed a total of \$770.25 to charitable organizations. AIDS organizations in the East Bay received \$297.25 from that amount.

A tip of Nez's nose to Jack and Jim for conducting the Silcare Program.

Speaking of programs, Alameda County Special Olympics will have its bowling tournament on Saturday, March 12, at Mel's Bowl, in Alameda.

Speaking of special, Big Mama's will feature the terrific comedian/impressionist Sandy Van, returning to share its cabaret stage with the exuberant Molly Breen Sunday, March 13, at 5 p.m.

Speaking of terrific, the big-item raffle for this year's Bitches In Black (Bjornson Hall, Saturday, March 12) will be a multi-course dinner for four, prepared by Little Mother, maybe Sammy, and yours truly. We hope to have a waiter, in tuxedo too. If perchance the winning ticket should be from Modesto, it is hoped that some kind, generous, and hungry soles in the East Bay would share their dining room with them! I don't want to drive anywhere cooped up in a car with Little Mother!

When you do not know what you are doing, at least try to do it neatly. I can smile at that! ●

Love, Nez

San Mateo AIDS Mental Health Project

San Mateo County Mental Health Department announces the start up of the AIDS Mental Health Project. This project will provide crisis counseling and support groups to people affected by AIDS, ARC, or who are HIV antibody positive and live in San Mateo County.

For more information, call 366-AIDS, or 573-2588. ●

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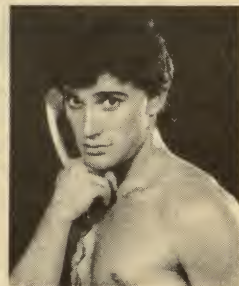
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The S.F. Tap Troupe will be part of the show at the 1988 Cable Car Awards Feb. 27 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

FRIDAY 26

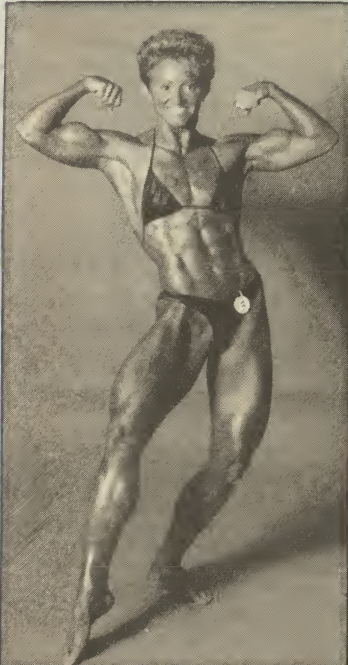
- **Discovered, Rediscovered, and Contemporary Poets:** with Judy Grahn, Anne Kyle on Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Edith Jenkins presenting Sara Bard Field, Small Press Distribution, 1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$4. Call 549-3336 for more information.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. *In Circles* is the circular play by Gertrude Stein set to music by Al Carmines, and *Talking To The Sun*, about New York, love, and the movies based on the poems of Frank O'Hara with music by Christopher Berg, will have its world premiere. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$10. Call 788-8379 for reservations.
- **An Intimate Evening with Judy Garland:** starring Jim Bailey, Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 8 and 10:30 PM, \$19, two-drink minimum. Call 885-6800 for tickets.
- **Mona Rogers In Person:** stage performance, Climate, 252 9th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10-\$12. The show starring Helen Shumaker is extended through March 6. Call 626-9196 for tickets and more information.
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance, Studio Eremos, Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. A new play by Joe Besecker produced by J.B. Enterprises and directed by Michael Lilly. Call 626-6715 for tickets.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, Music Hall Theatre, 931 Larkin St., S.F., 8 PM, \$20. Lighthouse Entertainment presents Steve Alexander's three-act drama on the ill-fated poet. Call 776-8996 for tickets.
- **The Seven Descents of Myrtle:** stage performance, Trinity Church, Bush and Gough sts., S.F., 8 PM, \$11. Tennessee Williams' intriguing story is back by popular demand. Call 543-3154 for tickets.
- **Vera:** film, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F., 6, 8, and 10 PM. The best lesbian film of last year's S.F. Intl. Lesbian and Gay Film Festival returns to the Roxie through March 1.
- **Boy Party:** with boy dancing and boy drink specials, The Endup, Sixth and Harrison, S.F., 8 PM-2 AM, \$4.
- **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay rap, 3135 Courtland, Oakland, 7:30 PM. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM, non-members \$5, refreshments. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **An Intimate Evening With Judy Garland:** starring Jim Bailey (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys (see Friday listing for details).
- **Mona Rogers In Person:** stage performance, 8 and 10 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 8 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Seven Descents of Myrtle:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Vera:** film, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Garden Party:** the fresh-air alternative, The Endup, Sixth and Harrison, S.F., 6 AM-8 PM, \$2.
- **Gay Softball League:** general meeting, Cafe San Marcos, 2367 Market St., S.F., noon. Three divisions for the league will be discussed.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Lake Chabot run. Take I-580 East to 150th Ave. Turn left at 2nd traffic light onto Fairmont Dr. Continue over hill. Lake Chabot Marina entrance on left (parking fee; street parking free). Meet at entrance to parking lot. Call 939-3579 for more information.
- **Last Saturday of the Month:** partner's (Scotch pool) tournament, Overpass, 482-A Hayes St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7 entry fee (includes well drink, beer, or wine), prizes. Call 864-6672 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F. to decide on a ride.
- **Gourmet Vegetarian Potluck:** 7 PM in San Francisco. Call 775-6143 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** Pictionary evening, 252 Clinton Park, S.F., 8 PM, refreshments. Hosted by Tom Kuwahara; call 641-0999 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** goes to the Chinese New Year's parade. Meet at 4th and Market at 6:30 PM. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Girth and Mirth Club:** board of directors meeting, 3744 16th St., S.F., 6:30 PM.
- **The Heart of the Goddess: Womanspirit' and Motherpeace:** workshop, Bosch Bahai Retreat, Santa Cruz. With Hallie Austen-Iglehart and Karen Vogel, authors of *Womanspirit: A Guide to Women's Wisdom* and *The Motherpeace Round Tarot Deck*. Call (408)425-7971 or 221-9432 for more information.
- **Putting Available Resources for Persons with Low Income Quickly Into Place:** one-day seminar, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 9 AM-5 PM, \$12-\$30 sliding scale. Call 821-0853 for more information.
- **Touch Workshop:** Grace Cathedral Gym, S.F., 8:30 AM-4 PM, \$25 donation optional. Sponsored by the Grace AIDS/ARC Ministry. Call 938-4196 for more information and to register (limited to 30).

SUNDAY 28

- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **An Intimate Evening With Judy Garland:** starring Jim Bailey, 8 PM, \$17 (see Friday listing for details).

WEEK

- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 8 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 7 PM, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Seven Descents of Myrtle:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Vera:** film, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **Seth Monfort:** music, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 4 PM, \$5. The world's favorite Chopin will be performed.
- **Irene Soderberg:** music, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5 PM, cover. With James Campbell.
- **Dell Madill:** music, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 PM, cover. With Mercy Oria.
- **Voz Do Samba:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, cover. Brazilian and pop.
- **Joseph Taro and Dan Fludd:** music, Big Mama's Cabaret, 22615 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 5 PM, no cover. Call 881-9310 for more information.
- **Sunday Variety Show:** Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 PM. Singing, dancing, comedy, and impersonation.
- **Muscle Beach Party:** and tea dance, Club St. John, 170 W. St. John St., San Jose, doors open 4 PM, \$2. Call (408) 947-1667 for more information.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** potluck brunch and city hike through Noe Valley and the upper Mission. Meet at 112 28th St., S.F., at 10 AM. (Bring food item to share for brunch after the hike.) Rain cancels hike but not brunch.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Cliffhouse run. Meet at the Cliffhouse totem pole (next to gift shop) at 10 AM for a 3-mile run; rolling hills. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Arcadia Bodybuilding Society:** bodybuilding seminar training II: Workout Routines, City Athletic Club, 2500 Market St., S.F., 6:30-8:30 PM, \$3 ABS members, \$5 general public. Led by Lisa Shoenberg and Jerry Sameshima.
- **Black and White Men Together:** bicycle ride/picnic in Golden Gate Park. Meet at Haight and Stanyan at 10 AM; rain cancels. Call 261-7922 for more information.



Lisa Shoenberg will lead a seminar on workout routines sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society this week at City Athletic Club

MONDAY 29

- **Buddy Connection:** safe sex workshop for gay and bisexual men, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM. Call 863-AIDS for more information.
- **S.F. Jacks:** leap-year jack-off, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 7:30-9 PM, \$5.
- **Leathermen's/SM Support Group:** meeting, Room 204, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM.
- **Vera:** film (see Friday listing for details).
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** parents and family support group, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** grief support group. Call 420-8181 for more information.

TUESDAY 1

- **Vera:** film (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Gay Roller Skating:** Slub Saare, 15721 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 8 PM to midnight, cover. Call 278-2095 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay AIDS Awareness meeting, 3135 Courtland, Oakland, 7:30 PM. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Master Your Mind:** support group for people with AIDS and the worried well led by Mary Richards, 4th Floor, 333 Valencia St., S.F., noon to 2 PM. Focus on meditation, visualization, empowerment, and health; not affiliated with the S.F. AIDS Foundation. Call 945-0941 for more information.



Until That Last Breath: Women With AIDS multi-media art exhibit opens at SOMAR Gallery this week

(Photo: © 1988 Ann Meredith)

WEDNESDAY 2

- **Erotic Fantasy Night:** social event for leather women, Endup, 6th and Harrison, S.F., 8 PM-2 AM, \$6. To benefit International Ms Leather; presented by The Rack Productions. Fantasy scenes begin at 10 PM.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Open Mike Cabaret:** with Katibelle Collins and Lauren Mayer, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.
- **Electric City:** television on PCTV, 9:30 PM. Featuring the Ms. Leather S.F. contest with Tallulah, Ernestine, and Rainbeau; AIDS Action Pledge; and Lisa Rudman of PCTV.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** general club meeting, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 18th and Collingwood, S.F., 7:30 PM. Potluck dinner followed by a discussion of the trip to Hawaii.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** writers workshop for older lesbians and gay men (50+), 1853 Market St., S.F., 6-8 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.

THURSDAY 3

- **Until That Last Breath: Women With AIDS:** multi-media art exhibit, SOMAR Gallery, South of Market Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., S.F., opening reception 7-10 PM.
- **Frank Pietronigro:** mixed-media art objects and oil paintings, Sweet Inspiration, 2123 Fillmore St., S.F., reception for the artist 5:30-8:30 PM.
- **As Is:** stage performance, San Jose City College Theatre, 2100 Moorpark Ave., San Jose, 8 PM, \$5. Call (408) 288-3786 for tickets.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** with female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Mona Rogers In Person:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Plutonium Players:** comedy, Lipps, 201 9th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$4.
- **Gus Gustavson and Faith Winthrop:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** run. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 PM. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** rap, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 931-BWMT for more information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Operatunity Knocks SF Opera Has a Chance To Rebuild Its Credibility

by George Heymont

To many opera lovers, Terry McEwen's sudden resignation followed, within hours, by the death of Kurt Herbert Adler on Tuesday, Feb. 9, marked the end of an era for the San Francisco Opera. Coincidentally, these two events created a golden opportunity for the company's board of directors to reposition the San Francisco Opera so that, as the dawn of the 21st century draws near, it can once again become a pioneering force within the international opera community.

COMMENTARY

Despite what loyal fans of the San Francisco Opera would like to believe, the company has not held that position for quite some time. The American opera scene has changed so dramatically within the past 20 years that the San Francisco Opera now competes on an equal artistic and/or financial basis not only with the Metropolitan Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, but with the Houston Grand Opera, Washington Opera, New York City Opera, Dallas Opera, Los Angeles Music Center Opera and Greater Miami Opera Association. Our company is also feeling strong artistic competition from the Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

During McEwen's administration, the San Francisco Opera took several giant steps backward by dangerously reducing its involvement in the community it serves while switching from an innovative to a largely conservative and reactionary artistic policy. Like many other nonprofit arts organizations, SFO Opera solved its severe financial problems by retrenching and regrouping. Alas, insufficient thought was given to moving forward and, in the process of balancing the budget, an appalling amount of artistic momentum was sacrificed to financial expediency.

It should be noted that, at the time of McEwen's appointment, the company's board of directors was severely under-educated about potential job candidates and financially under-invested in the corporation it ran. It still is. That's a sorry predicament which demands that the board exercise a great deal more deliberation in 1988's job search than it did the last time around.

One of McEwen's most serious weaknesses was that he came to the job of General Director with a mind-set geared to doing business in the profit rather than the nonprofit sector. A man whose artistic orientation was primarily European, McEwen routinely underestimated his North American peers and discredited much of the artistic progress being made on a grass-roots level. A



Gone But Not Forgotten—Former S.F. mayor Dianne Feinstein stands behind former S.F. Opera general director Terry McEwen as he holds forth on a 1985 fundraiser put on the SFO for the S.F. AIDS Foundation (Photo: Rink)

matter of critical importance to the San Francisco Opera is that its search committee recruit a General Director who has a distinctly American rather than European (and therefore heavily subsidized) mind-set.

Who are the people that can qualify as candidates for the job? The person best suited to be McEwen's successor is David Gockley, the man who is currently serving as General Director of the Houston Grand Opera and President of OPERA America. In his 16 years at HGO's helm, Gockley has produced the world premieres of Thomas Pasatieri's *The Seagull*, Carlisle Floyd's *Bilby's Doll* and *Willie Stark*, Leonard Bernstein's *A Quiet Place*, John Adams' *Nixon in China*, Philip Glass' *The Panther* and *The Making of the Representative From Planet 8* and commissioned a world premiere for Sir Michael Tippett for HGO's 1991 season. He claims responsibility for the first fully-staged production of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* as well as the American premieres of Handel's *Rinaldo*, Philip Glass' *Akhmaten* and Rossini's *Gancredi* and *La Donna Del Lago*. Gockley has not only engineered the designing debuts of such important contemporary visual artists as Maurice Sendak, Jim Dine and Earl Staley, he has been at the forefront of co-commissioning new works with foreign and domestic opera companies and co-producing other operas with his professional colleagues in opera houses on both sides of the Atlantic.

Gockley, who turns 45 this summer, was one of the prime movers behind the creation of Houston's magnificent new

\$75-million Wortham Arts Center. Not only has this man overseen the operations of HGO's touring arm, Texas Opera Theater, and the Houston Opera Studio (training programs similar to those run by the San Francisco Opera), he has carefully guided his company through Houston's hair-raising oil-related economic crisis.

A man with a firm commitment to including classics of the American musical theatre in the operatic repertoire, he has produced national tours of *Hello, Dolly*, *Show Boat* and *Porgy and Bess* (HGO's full-length recording of the Gershwin opera won both a Grammy Award and France's prestigious *Grande Prix du Disque*). In addition to being the first operatic impresario to offer Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* to his subscribers, Gockley introduced Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* to Houston's audiences and helped nurture the careers of such outstanding young American artists as sopranos Erie Mills, Diane Kesling, and Christine Donahue; tenors Carroll Freeman and Mark Thomsen; mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer and conductors Hal France and John DeMain.

Although he is one of the very few opera people in this country whose artistic vision is boldly realistic and unabashedly contemporary, I suspect that this man's adventurous and wildly successful ideas might prove to be a bit too much for the San Francisco Opera's conservative board of directors. If my suspicion proves true, it will be a sad day for San Franciscans.

Next in line for consideration is Ed Purrington, the General Director of the Tulsa Opera who is currently working as Administrative Director of the Washington Opera. Purrington has sound artistic taste, a good ear for voices, a profound knowledge of the repertoire and a reputation as one of the few gentlemen in the operatic profession. He has an unwavering commitment to producing quality opera, is able to work well with a board of directors and boasts an impressive track record as a professional fundraiser.

Like Gockley, Purrington received his training at the Santa Fe Opera and knows how to interact with government agencies on federal, state and local levels. Divorced and in his mid-fifties, he offers our board the perfect image of corporate stability. Although some people unwittingly mistake Purrington's "nice guy" personality for a sign of weakness, underneath all that tact and gentility is a keen-minded impresario who knows the operatic industry upside down and inside out.

While in Tulsa, Purrington produced the American premiere of Massenet's *La Navarraise*, cast Erie Mills in her first *Lucia Di Lammermoor* and gave Simon Estes his first chance to sing Wotan in Wagner's *Die Walkure*. Back in the days when Oklahoma was riding high on oil money, artists often complained that under Purrington's leadership the Tulsa Opera was the only place in America where they were too well-fed and too well-rehearsed. If Gockley doesn't take the job, Purrington should be the search committee's second choice.

NOT GOOD

The two people who were initially mentioned by the San Francisco Chronicle's music critic, Robert Commanday, as potential candidates for the job would not, in my mind, be the best choices to succeed McEwen. Although I am a strong supporter of Beverly Sills' work with the New York City Opera, it's a fairly safe bet that Sills (who turns 60 next year and is basically an East Coast person) has had her fill of fundraising and does not even want the job.

Lotfi Mansouri (whom McEwen is aggressively trying to convince the board to hire as his successor) is in his mid-50s and has been successfully running the Canadian Opera Company for the past few years. While Mansouri is a strong fundraiser, a dynamic leader and has a wealth of connections within the opera world, he has one major liability which must be addressed by the board's search committee: his career as a stage director will keep him out of town for long periods of time.

My feeling is that, at this crucial turning point in its history, the San Francisco Opera needs a hands-on General Director who has no outside obligations as either a conductor or a stage director. Unless Mansouri agrees to curtail his freelance directing activities, the last thing this company needs is another absentee landlord (McEwen's track record in this area was scandalous).

Other suggestions? Richard Gaddes, who founded Opera Theatre of St. Louis, recently told me that he never again wants to experience the stress of running an opera company. Thomson Smillie (who is producing the world premiere of Philip Glass' *The Fall of the House of Usher* in May) is doing just fine in Louisville, Kentucky and should stay there.

That leaves two dark horse candidates for the job. One is Christopher Hunt, a former artist's manager from Great Britain who now heads SUNY's Pepsico Summerfare Festival in Purchase, New York. Hunt has quite an impressive track record in discovering young talent and has been a steady supporter of controversial stage director Peter Sellars' operatic ventures.

The other is Marian Lever, who served for the past decade as Executive Secretary to both Terry McEwen and Kurt Herbert Adler. Lever possesses an intimate knowledge of the workings of the San Francisco Opera, an ability to get along with its board of directors and a handsome track record of strong administrative skills. Having been forced to oversee many of the company's operations when McEwen was unavailable, she has been acting as the power behind the throne for quite some time.

My previous work experience as a secretary makes me keenly aware that folks like Marian Lever can not only run the show (they often do just that) but also know where every skeleton is buried. I suspect that Maid Marian—a tough cookie if ever there was one—could easily become a solid fundraiser and, with some strong artistic advice, do a splendid job of running the company.

THE ROADBLOCK

The roadblock she faces is a conservative and largely male chauvinist board of directors whose innate sexism and shortsightedness might prevent it from banking on a female executive. If that proves to be the case, the board would be well advised to look at what happened when Carol Fox's administrative assistant took over the Lyric Opera of Chicago after Fox's death. Ardis Krainik, who had been in Lyric's employ for more than 25 years, saved the company from bank-

(Continued on page 35)

Rhino's Double Bill Doesn't Make It

by David Perry

There are times when things are just not as they appear. Take the current production at The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, *Talking to the Sun* in a double bill with *In Circles*.

On the surface, the idea of presenting selected poems of Frank O'Hara and an obscure poem play by Gertrude Stein as musical theatre seems like a neat idea. It should have stayed that way.

Composer Christopher Berg has fashioned a musical platform of simple beauty on which to mount O'Hara's poetry. Berg's minimalist vocabulary is so eloquently in touch with O'Hara's, and when left alone, serves as pleasing, touching fare. However, director John F. Karr can't seem to leave well enough alone with this world premiere opus. The actors, especially the three men, seem directed away from the words and music as opposed into them. They stare absently into space, touch uncomfortably, and generally move about the stage as if constricted. And they are.

After a pre-show teasing of Edward Gortman's functional and elegant dancing circle with revolving light columns, in is pulled a finely drawn but gratuitous drop representing an angular New York City skyline. The performers are forced into a space like a dog run that only leaves one wondering what is going on behind that curtain instead of focusing attention on what is going on in front of it.

Later when the three women come on dressed like canaries in the sun of O'Hara's poem "A True Account of Talking to the Sun at Fire Island," one wants to scream "enough already. We get it!"

After the intermission we finally get to see a workable (and simple) set. It would, and still could with a few rehearsals, make a very nice New York. What it does make is a perfect romper room for the playful antics of Al Carmines' music with Gertrude Stein's *In Circles*. Suddenly, the actors seem alive. They have room to breathe! And breathe they must, for what follows is a lot of Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein, and all sung very very fast.

The ensemble tackles this large bit of nonsensical whimsy and circular logic with a lot of help from Marcia Harp's clever and well-placed choreography. I still don't believe they understand half of what Gert was say-



Headlines news in *Talking To The Sun*

(Photo: J. Posener)

ing. I don't think Gert did. However, after a lot of energetic performing and circle forming by the actors, we are not entertained or enlightened, just somewhat dazed by this overlong whirly-gig of words. What a pity, so much energy and space put into the lesser of the evening's offerings.

The six actors do their best, especially Ruth Jovel who would make any production worth the price of admission. In an often focusless evening, Jovel delivers clarity and emotion *con brio gusto*. Even Stein's jabberwocky she endows with warmth, wit, and intelligent wisdom. What a voice.

Except for the solar suits in *Talking to the Sun*, Pierre Nadeau's costume design is functional as is the lighting by Stephanie Johnson.

Frank O'Hara and Gertrude Stein stand as concept-altering, mind-expanding artists all by themselves. Christopher Berg and Al Carmines have created music to make them sing. The current production could stand a little more attention to a *capella*.

★ ★
Talking to the Sun and In Circles
Theatre Rhinoceros
2926 16th St.
Friday-Sunday evenings at 8:30 p.m.
Through March 20
Tickets: \$8; Reservations: 861-5079

Gay Historians Need Artifacts

The Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society is seeking photographs, souvenirs, artifacts, and materials for a history exhibit. The exhibit will cover the experience of gay men and women in the Bay Area from 1849 to the present. If you do not wish to donate items, we can photo-

graph them for inclusion in the exhibit. The exhibit will be displayed at various events and locations starting in June.

If you have any items that can be used, or need more information, please call Greg Pennington at (415) 441-1128.

Throw Momma From The Blame!

Nationally known chef, cookbook author and cooking instructor Arlyn Hackett will give a light-hearted lecture on American eating habits, entitled "An Armchair History of American Indulgence," or "Why You Can't Blame Your Mother For Your Cholesterol Level."

Arlyn will also be serving samples of dishes from his just-released cookbook, *The Slim Chef* on Sunday, Feb. 28 at A Different Light at 489 Castro and 18th streets, San Francisco at 7:30 p.m. The author's appearance is part of "The Light After Dark" reading and lecture series at A Different Light. The event is free. For more information, please call 415/431-0891.

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'Fools Rush Inn'

New Besecker Play Explores Obsessive Relationships

by David Perry

Writers usually loathe comparisons—even flattering ones. We all pride ourselves as consummate originals. And yet, through the hazy smoke of his downstairs den, a troupe of actors thumping in rehearsal over his head, a cigarette held tenuously in his hand, playwright Joe Besecker does call to mind Tennessee Williams.

"Tennessee Williams was always there at major turning points in my life," admits the San Francisco writer. "He takes shape in my dreams. And when I wake up, I know I have to do something different with my life."

The 46-year-old Besecker lays down his cigarette. A tabby cat peers curiously down from the stairs, and the playwright takes a healthy swig of caffeine-free diet coke. Hardly the stuff that dissolve playwrights are made of.

But the comparison holds, and



The cast of *Fools Rush Inn* (l. to r.) Richard Pastor, Geoff Shields, Eva Reale, and Linda Pacino

Besecker encourages it. His last two plays, *Tennessee in the Summer*, a disturbing portrait of the fevered genius, and *Boats*, which touched on such Williamsesque subjects as incest and terminal illness can hardly escape comparison to the late great playwright of Besecker's dreams.

Now comes *Fools Rush Inn*, a scathing look at obsessive relationships and the pain of unrequited love. A collection of John Cheever's short stories smiles down from the bookcase. A piano, dusty and friendly, lounges in the corner. Besecker's lover of 16 years pads around a floor above. What moves Besecker to his often painful introspections?

The character of Tennessee in *Tennessee in the Summer*, easily Besecker's most successful venture to date, may hold a clue through a bit of his dialogue.

"My thoughts have become more and more obsessed with the subject of artists and doom."

"This is a play about actors, about theatre, about directors and about their families," explains Besecker. "Most of my characters are based on people I know. And I play out my own neurosis within my characters."

Is Besecker familiar with all of his neuroses?

"Well," he adds with a smile. "I've been through therapy all of my life, so I suppose I am."

FOUR-CARD DECK

Like a variant party scene from *All About Eve*, Besecker's *Fools Rush Inn* deals us a four-card deck of straight porn star, gay actor, straight actress and confused bi-sexual directress all together for a very bumpy New Year's Eve night. The incestuous knots they have tied their lives in would do any Williams' play justice. How Besecker unties them provides carnivorous actors meaty pieces any would love to sink their teeth into.

"*Fools Rush Inn* is an examination of different ways to deal with the painful predicament of finding yourself in the position of unrequited love," explains Besecker. "You really can be chemically addicted to another person. I mean you can be with someone whose smell just drives you crazy. And you just become obsessed with them."

"I don't think love is ever safe," he continues. "Safety has nothing to do with love. You never get anything unless you give something."

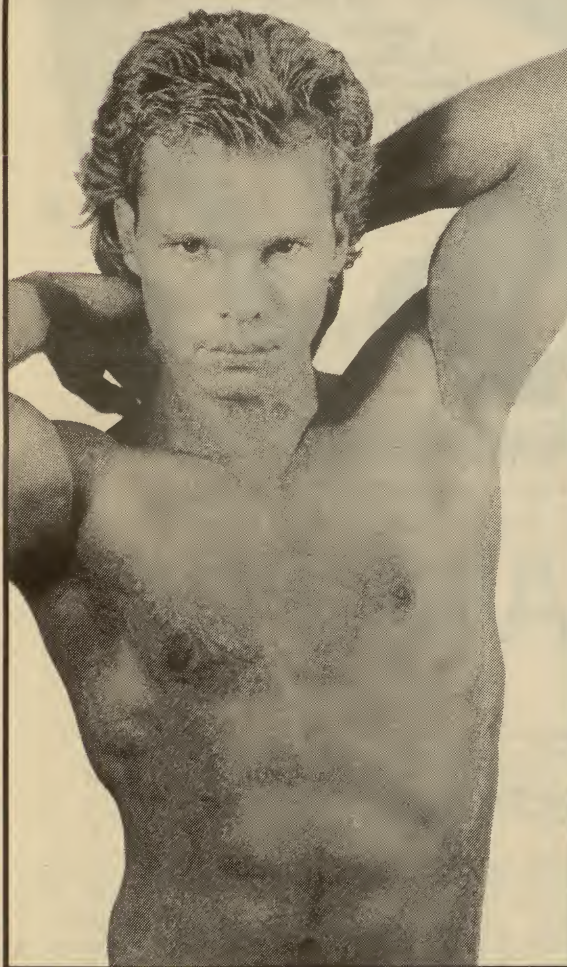
Fools Rush Inn hopes to give new insight into sexual and emotional obsession. Like so much in life, its success will depend upon the kindness of strangers. Fasten your seatbelts.

Fools Rush Inn
Studio Eremos
401 Alabama St. (at 17th St.)
Feb. 25-March 26
Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.
Tickets, \$8; Reservations 626-6715

Author At Different Light To Sign Books

Eric Marcus will sign copies of his new book *The Male Couple's Guide to Living Together*, on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 3-4 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro and 18th Streets, San Francisco.

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69 Minus More Than One

by Steve Warren

The good news is that the gay character in '68 is played by one of the better actors in the film (and the best-looking), and the best scene concerns his making a statement about his gayness.

The bad news is almost everything else about this locally filmed yearbook, the most comprehensive collection of under-talented Hungarians since the last Gabor family reunion.

It starts with newsreels of the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956. A plane takes off, presumably carrying refugees to America. Cut to San Francisco, New Year's Eve, 1968. One of those refugee families, the Szabos, is putting the finishing touches on their restaurant. Peter, the older brother, is helping, but Sandy, three years his junior at 18, arrives late. "Why can't you be more responsible, like your brother?" asks their stern, intransigent father.

Peter (Eric Larson) is a pre-law student at Berkeley, but his main interest is journalism. Well, girls and journalism. (There were still girls in 1968. I checked.) He's suspended for copying an assignment out of political pamphlets and takes a job in Neil Young's cycle shop (and wears a red hanky in his left pocket). In one of the more bizarre scenes a gang of bikers kidnaps Peter in the middle of an outdoor rock concert or be-in or something, and makes him ride with them while they threaten him.

Sandy (Robert Locke) is presumably out of school, but no one mentions his future. The females of the local Hungarian community desire his sweet young bod. An older, married caricature of a woman known as "the Hungarian Countess" presumably gets him first (the scene ends in a discreet fadeout as they kiss), but a girl his own age makes him declare his love for her before jumping into the back of his VW van. Next thing you know they're announcing their engagement.

"The one flunks out, the other wants to get married," laments their loving father. "Double catastrophe!" Sandy defends himself, "We're really into each other, you know what I mean?" and heads down the street to a gay bar, not seeing his fiancée for two weeks. (A sign in the bar advertises Lite beer, which wasn't introduced until 1972—I checked—but we always were ahead of the trends.)

The King and Kennedy assassinations provoke more melodrama. Sandy is drafted, Peter beaten up. A friend of the family invents "bunk stalls," a double-decker parking space. No one points out that the ramp to the

upper would block two potential street-level spaces.

Aside from holding hands with a man when Peter storms into the bar to find him, Sandy has no sign of a gay sex life; but his scene at the induction center, though clumsily photographed, is a delight. The revelation of his homosexuality proves to be the last straw for papa, and forces the close-knit family to choose up sides.

Writer-director Steven Kovacs (the Peter character) based '68 on his own experiences as a young immigrant. He's done the best he could with a small budget, a cast of film novices, and good intentions; but his ambitions were greater than the resources available to carry them out. ●

★★
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Eric Larson and Robert Locke in '68

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Asian Lesbian Slides

"Asian/Pacific Lesbians: Our Identities, Our Movements," a slideshow created by Trinity Ordoña and Kitty Tsui, will be presented at the March general meeting of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, on Sunday, March 6, at the San Francisco Women's Building, 3543-18th St. Refreshments and socializing will begin at 6 p.m.; the slideshow will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, and free to Historical Society members. For further information call 655-3002. ●

The News at ABT

This year's big news at American Ballet Theatre is the same as last year's: dancer Clark Tippet's emergence as a choreographer, and the ascension of the new Argentinian *danseur*, Julio Bocca. In both cases, last season's promise is this season's glowing reality.

Clark Tippet's new ballet, *Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1*, is a glamorous and unabashedly romantic work for four principal couples backed by eight corps couples. *Bruch's* formal structure recalls the work of several great choreographers without ever seeming derivative; Tippet's personal style keeps reappearing at every turn. As in his first ballet, *Enough Said*, to a difficult George Perle score, Tippet has responded unerringly to the music's emotional tenor, and has again created with obvious fondness for his dancers. Leslie Browne had never looked better than in her first movement duet with Ricardo Bustamante. Wes Chapman—a fabulous dancer—had a brief, go-for-broke allegro solo that seemed to celebrate his recent promotion to soloist. The memorable second movement duet, danced by Ethan Brown and Alessandra Ferri, melted an audience that was starved for the ethereal romance that ballet can create but which our brash contemporary choreographers can't seem to conjure. Clark Tippet can.

Having joined ABT at age 17, Tippet became a principal dancer at 21, a very early elevation for a male dancer in those



Ballet Imperial

(Photo: M. Swope)

days. Burned out at 24, and out of the company from 1978 to 1982, Tippet once appeared as much a victim of the ABT machine as many of his more publicized fellow dancers. It seems almost poetic that Clark Tippet should now become ABT's house choreographer—the answer to its prayers—with an intuitive sense of the company's needs that no outside choreographer could approximate.

To understand just how badly ABT needs a good in-house choreographer, one only has to see the latest work of artistic director, Mikhail Baryshnikov, whose restaging of *Raymonda Grand Pas Classique* uses most of the same parts of the Glazunov score as Balanchine's *Pas de Dix*. ABT would have been far better off *doing* the piece by Balanchine, who once justified his version by pointing out that nobody remembers the original Petipa choreography accurately anyway. Baryshnikov, who was certainly steeped in the 19th century Russian classics, has given us his semblance of authenticity at its least compelling, as though he

had taken a reductionist's view of whatever choreography he remembered.

Susan Jaffe looked beautiful but unchallenged, Ricardo Bustamante looked nervous, and the corps couples, in capes, caps and plumes, looked overdressed. Four soloists created such different impressions that it was hard to know whether their problems lay with the dancer or the solo. A newly created finale was as impressive as an 26-dancer unison finale would be: the body beautiful esthetic reigns supreme among today's ABT personnel, and their massed physical perfection can be almost overwhelming. But most of the dancing was boring enough to give both Petipa and Baryshnikov a bad name. The costume designs were most unfortunate. All white, they just blanked out on stage, and none of the quality lavished upon them by Barbara Matera's workshop (they were trimmed with real fur, for example) mattered at all.

Three revivals actually carried the first-week repertory programs. Antony Tudor's *Gala Per-*

formance, which caricatures three rival ballerinas, was given a fresh new production and careful coaching. Would it be even funnier performed by drag queens? The Trocks have certainly gotten bigger laughs in the opera house, but they probably lack both the subtlety and the technical skill required by Tudor.

Balanchine's *Ballet Imperial*, to Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto, got a cool response from the gala audience and some critics. But I loved the blend of a very grand score, costumes heavily encrusted with jewels, a pictorial backdrop and Balanchine's inventive glosses on Imperial Russian ballet hallmarks. Susan Jaffe and Ross Stretton, the lead couple, and Amanda McKerrow, soloist, all gave excellent performances.

An ABT vehicle throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Harald Lander's *Etudes* has just resurfaced. It attempts to trace the art of ballet from its simplest exercises up through final demonstrations of fiendish virtuosity. I'm not sure *Etudes* really makes a

very clear point about the development of dancers, but it is staged creatively enough to entertain us regardless. The performance I saw was danced to the hilt by Marianna Tcherkassy, Johann Rennvall, and Julio Bocca, in his first appearance of the week.

I am somewhat obsessed with Bocca, who at 21 may be the most exciting male dancer in America. Technically, he remains the company fireball, possessing a huge jump and easily capable of turning eight to ten pirouettes from a single preparation. But Bocca is also the most romantic figure we've seen in ballet in a long time. Warm-blooded and musical, Bocca tempers his precocious bravura with extreme generosity towards both his partners and the audience. The large risks he takes, his very daring as a performer, seem primarily motivated by an eagerness to please.

ABT isn't giving Bocca the star treatment, which certainly reflects a change in policy from the days of Lucia Chase's directorship. In fact, neither of Bocca's first-week roles really suited him, since in *Etudes* he is asked only to perform virtuoso tricks, with no outlet for his soul, and as Prince Desire in *The Sleeping Beauty*, he dances very little, simply serving (with great nobility) as cavalier to Cheryl Yeager's perky Princess Aurora. But this weekend he appears as Albrecht in *Giselle*, which should prove a more congenial part for this fascinating young artist. ●

John Karr

Three Heats

There are times when I simply have to rejoice over the manifold pleasures which come to me because of this column. I get to see Helen Shumaker in *Mona Rogers in Person* whenever I want—which is nearly as often as she plays it; if the script were published, I'd eat two copies immediately—and I was invited to see both the original and the new cast of the curiously nifty cabaret revue, *Bittersuite*. Wonderment of all are those serendipitous treasures I sometimes find in my mailbox, like the arrival, both unannounced and unexplained, of a copy of *Swan* magazine. C'est ca Swan? C'est pornographic for, and with, les hommes over 50 years old: an entirely new, and not unwelcome wrinkle on the face of erotic entertainment.

★ ★ ★

My repeat visits to *Mona Rogers in Person* serve to deepen my response to this monologue's furious wit and savage assessment of American desire. Helen Shumaker's performance remains a wonder, a high point in the small bouquet of performance perfection I've collected over the years. Imagine Chita Rivera in a 90-minute through the looking glass version of "I like to be in America." The amazing Miss Shumaker explodes, slattering the walls with the shards of her venom, and implodes, drawing our horrified fascination into a soul lost in the dead-end hell of her own carnal wreckage and unmercifully cold self-assessment.

And then there is a moonshine

of resonance over all this which tops, for me, the pungently wicked thrust of the words and the gonadal punch of the performance—the elusive yet undeniably gay identity of the writing. The richness of the show's subject matter is, of course, another reason for repeat visits, yet not—for me at least—a cause for analysis. I prefer *Mona* to creep through me. It stirs me, deeply and emotionally. And not just the bitchery and the bonmot. There is a vulnerability behind the ice-goddess pose here, with the fathomless ache that is the well-spring of both despair and hope, as well as the slashing knife of revenge that is a cutting balm to the dispossessed. In Shumaker's playing, all this sounds simultaneously: the hurt, the hate, the revenge, the display of brilliance as defense and defiance, the sad exhilaration of destruction, and the desperately triumphant song of survival.

Not surprisingly, this classic text and definitive performance have been held over once again, and Helen/Mona will be at the Climate Gallery through March 6 (616-9196). I am a moth to this maniacally burning flame created by author Philip Dmitri-Galas and performer Shumaker. Their's is a ritual which consumes me and spits me out whole, washed in the hissing saliva of its brilliance.

★ ★ ★

My return visit to the sophisticated, adult song revue *Bittersuite* reconfirmed my enjoyment and ad-

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Mr. Marcus

The Night of The Outstanding Ones

This Saturday night, Feb. 27, everybody who did an outstanding job last year, whether in sports, politics, fundraising, music, dance, or theater, will be honored at the annual Cable Car Awards. The doors open at the Giftcenter Pavilion at 1900 hours, and the cascade of awards will be interspersed with a lot of good entertainment. You'll be afforded the opportunity to vote in several categories too (posters, columnist, etc.), so get there early to make your choices known.

It's San Francisco's biggest pat on the back for everyone's efforts during 1987 in the gay community. My co-chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund, Sharon McNight, will receive the Dorothy Langston Human Rights Award for her efforts throughout not only last year, but previous years. This is annually given to the non-gay person who does more than their share for the welfare of gays and lesbians. There are still a lot of cheap tickets available, so if you want to see who the really hard workers are, get there and help applaud them.

★ ★ ★

Lots of things happened last weekend. For one thing a new Emperor and Empress were crowned. All the visiting royalty from around the U.S. gathered here to welcome the new monarchs. The campaign raged on for weeks, and in the finality of it all, Lily Street and Steven Rascher grabbed the crowns and will do their damndest to enhance the office during the next 12 months.

True to their campaign promises, the two were seen all over town Sunday and made their first official visit South of Market to the Inter-Club Fund beer bust at the SF-Eagle—something they pledge they'll continue doing, since nobody on Folsom has seen much of the so-called reigning monarchs for the past two years.



The Constantines came up to receive awards again and again at the Motorcycle Awards (Photo: S. Martin)

Now that the "he said" and "she said" b.s. is over, it's time once again for the community to unite in support of the victors and their fundraising efforts. South of Market will be there if asked, instead of being snubbed as they have been!

All the action took place at the downtown Palace Hotel, and from all reports it was the same—long, boring, and expensive—just like the past 12 months. Hopefully 1988 will give us something to rally around!

★ ★ ★

Two Thursdays ago, 11 Feb., Mr. March 1989 on the SF-Eagle's Bare Chest calendar was selected. Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch was one of the judges and with nine contestants, it was hardly an easy task. In the end, 23-year-old Juan Carlos Mesen (recently immi-

grated from Costa Rica) took the spot on the calendar and tonight, Thursday, 25 Feb., they'll be picking Mr. April 1989, so get your chest down there and show it off. The fun begins around 2200 hours, so don't miss it.

Last week too, Erik Nielsen, mega-producer and trouble shooter for every disco party, awards function, show, and pageant, celebrated his, as did David Morris of the Morris partnership. Mark Friese, who writes in this rag, celebrates his 32nd this Sunday, and they're having a blast for him at the Mint beginning at 1600 hours; it's a benefit for Project Open Hand, so bring \$5 or more. Danny Williams will MC, or as the invitation announces: "Entertainment Coordinator." The March '88 issue of American Health magazine hit the newsstands last week too, and

(Continued on next page)



Skivvy Competition—Mr. March and the first runner-up in the Eagle Bare Chest contest (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch (r.) came to town to consult with S.F. leather mavens last week (Photo: S. Martin)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

there on page 67 is a stunning photo and story of Rita Rockett and son Nicholas with kind words about Rita's work at Ward 5A of SF General.

The Barbary Coasters M/C had a successful motorcycle awards program two weekends ago; the surprise of the night was the three-way tie for Man of the Year among Frank Benoit, Gary Kenyon, and Rocky Rockwood. The GDI's and the Constantines grabbed most of the awards, including the coveted motorcycle events award, an award previously held consistently by the Warlocks M/C, a club no longer in existence—or is it? Congratulations are also in order to the Rider of the Year, Ric Gazby of the Constantines, and John Scharck also of the Constantines, who won Buddy Rider of the Year. The GDI's nullified the long winning streak of the Barbary Coasters M/C by winning the Weekend Bike Run of the Year (The 18-Wheeler). Everyone raved!

So far the corresponding secretaries are being diligent and prompt, as well as timely, with their press releases, but like Frank Benoit told me last Sunday night: "You'll be lucky to get one a month by May!—time will tell. Congrats to all the winners and congratulations to all the nominees. Run season is just around the corner—lots of surprises coming!

Male Entertainment Network

Video (M.E.N.) last year added a subsidiary to its thriving chain by launching WOM.E.N. Video for the lesbian contingent, and last week at a reception at their home for Intl. Mr. Leather Tom Karasch, announced the establishment of EURO-MEN, with Tom and Marcel Genis of Amsterdam as the principal partners in the new company. Since European videos utilize the PALTV system, this is an innovative giant step. The first two videos released by EURO-MEN will be the 1987 Intl. Mr. Leather contest and Mr. Drummer 1987. The highlights of Gay Games II will be released later this year!

He used to write and distribute satirical and sometimes biting barbs under the name of the Red Queen, items which amused as many as placed others in a quandry. Well, Arthur Evans finally put it all down in a new book just published by St. Martin's Press. It's called *The God of Ecstasy* and should be available at many book stores in town. It's a conglomeration of how the rites of Greek god Dionysos served to empower women, validate alternate forms of male sexuality, and anticipate certain themes in Christian mythology. Arthur's always cogent forays into esoteric themes are always a delight; after all, as an activist of 18 years, and one of the founders of the Gay Activist Alliance (NY), and the Faery Circle of SF, his reputation is unscathed throughout all the turmoil of gays and lesbians in the struggle for equality. You'd

do well to get a copy, and soon! Congratulations to the Red Queen! It's bound to be required reading in many, many circles.

This being the year of the Dragon, the queens are getting into the act. The World of Wong party is at Kimos tomorrow night, Feb. 26, starring the Gang of Seven (it gets bigger and bigger this gang of... business). See Suzie, Anna-Mae, Desiree, Jacqueline, Joe Tolbe Wong, and Steve Sanders Wong beginning at 9:45 (a \$2 donation for the AIDS Food Bank).

If you're in Seattle check out the 3rd Annual Mr. Washington State Leather (Evan Lozon) Slave Auction. They've got a lot of leathery action planned for you (a benefit of course), so hop into the Seattle Eagle (buy some drinks!) for the kegger, and they'll give you the rest of the schedule.

The Honeybucket Support Group presents *Honeybucket*, a Viet Nam vet play at Collins Hall (420 29th Ave.) through March 26. Call 928-7340 for tickets and reservations.

Next Sat. Tatiana, recovered from Men Behind Bars, will put on another First Saturday show at Kimo's on Polk. Big lineup of talent, only \$5 (to benefit the SF AIDS Food Bank), and the Faery Godmother of Men Behind Bars (Irene) will be the guest star.

Roberta Achtenberg wants your vote! I've never seen her South of Market let alone in a bar at all, but on March 25 they'll be holding a beer bust at the SF-

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Ms. Leather S.F. Scooter auctions off a Teddy Bear at the C&W Saloon Feb. 15 (Photo: S. Martin)



Racks of leather were auctioned off at the Eagle by the Castro Lions Feb. 15 (Photo: S. Martin)

Eagle (it's a Friday night), with lots of entertainment. After all, if Roberta is going to represent us in Sacramento she needs to know about her leather constituents, doesn't she? Are you reading this Sky Renfrow? More on this one later, but Walter Kaplan said he'd beat me up if I didn't say something nice—okay Walter? In case you didn't know, Roberta is running for the Assembly seat vacated by our current mayor (what is his name?).

WHISLE WHILE YOU DISH

How many members of the Cycle Runners M/C were trapped in the elevator at Ms. Piggi's apartment bldg. on their way to the motorcycle awards? I've heard of a total ranging from six to 16!

Just what kind of elevators do they have in a pig's building? When they arrived at the BC Awards and saw an elevator ad in the program they all cracked up—trapped in the elevator for 45 minutes and then the SF Fire Department had to use a crow bar to get them out! Tacky!

Hope the royalty queens have a lot of money. The NY City Emperor and Empress coronation takes place at the Waldorf-Astoria Starlight Roof Ballroom Saturday, April 30. The tickets are \$150 and \$200 per person! It's called the Night of a Thousand Gowns, and I hope it's a sellout! Are you ready?

And Jason Fontaine wants you all to know that the Western Star Dancers (as in square) are

celebrating their 6th anniversary of existence March 19. National caller Paul Marcum of Nashville will appear. If they're still standing, the party continues the next morning (morning?) at the Covered Wagon. Call Jason at 421-1790 for more info.

A lot of leather women are expected for the Intl. Ms. Leather Contest to be held at the Gift-center Pavilion March 26. They also need volunteers to put it together, so call Joy at 863-9413.

The Mr. Drummer contest has been changed to September 1988 to coincide with the Folsom Street Fair and a lot of other leather events that are shaping up into a very leathery week celebration. Anthony Bruno was in town and overheard two queens he doesn't even know discussing his ouster as the producer of this year's production and was definitely not amused. He got the "official" word the next day from Drummer, and he was still not amused.

I also forgot to mention that the world-famous disher Shannon from Sutter's Mill has been out on the town quite a big lately, and not with his significant other. His latest foray was at George Burgess' birthday party a cuppla weeks ago, and he was charming everyone—especially all the single guys. There, Shannon, see if Sweet Lips can top that one!

Biggest question around town after Men Behind Bars last week: "Has anyone ever seen Ms. Peckerhead and Carole Ruth



The Rainbow Deaf Society's Eagle Beer Bust Feb. 13 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Silver in the same room?" I've heard of a lot of winners of look-alike contests, but that one stretches the imagination to Oz!

And what about a certain Latin type Bare Chest contestant who would have won except that he pleaded with the judges to pass him over as he is a political refugee from an unnamed Central American country and apparently they're looking for him! Life isn't easy anymore, is it?

And while I'm at it, is anyone planning a "package" deal to Chicago this year for Intl. Mr. Leather? If so, let me know if you want some bodies in your group.

Several bike club members were not amused to learn at the coronation last Saturday that the Coits are "possibly the longest" fraternal gay organization in California. Obviously they never heard of the Satyr's M/C of Los Angeles!

And last, but not least, as if he didn't have a big enough toy already, a certain leather idol was spotted being fitted for a Penis Pump by Keith Reiter. Isn't that the truth? The ones who don't need those things are always the first ones in line!

Keep your legs crossed, out of the bushes, and keep stirring! See you next week!



Low and behold but who should match up at the Constantine's Mix 'n Match Beer Bust at the Eagle Feb. 12 but Empress Lily (l.) and unsuccessful Empress candidate Vinnie (Photo: S. Martin)



Emperor Steve and Empress Lily greeted their leather subjects at the Eagle last Sunday (Photo: Marcus)

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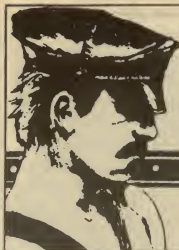


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Mark Friese

Press On!

I have kept my mouth shut long enough, and now that Men Behind Bars has had its highly successful run, I'm sure Jim Cvitanich would even agree the time has come at last to praise this highly conducive weather.

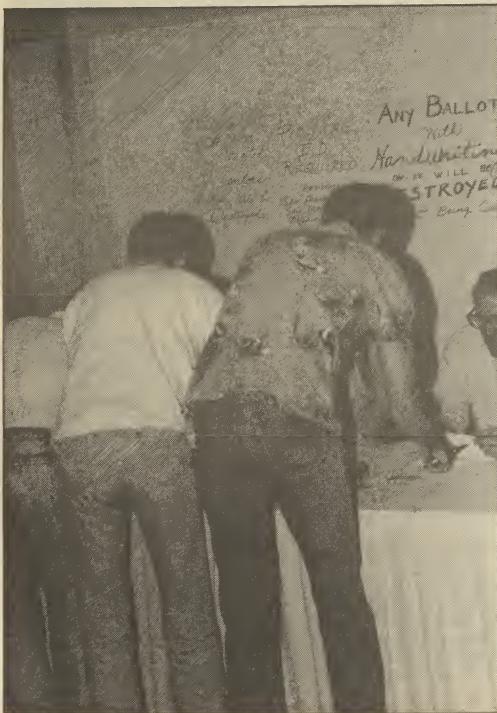
The weather was definitely a blessing for the cast and crew of MBB IV, who were not confined to the somewhat cramped dressing areas beneath the stage of the Victoria Theatre, but instead were treated to warm sunny weather and the freedom to wander and cavort in the alley beside the theater, which might not sound too glamorous to you, but believe me it was.

At this point I'm sure you have heard oodles about the production, and all of it is true. Yes, indeed, new heights were reached. If you missed the show you should definitely get ahold of the videotape.

Thanks to Jim, Mark, and everyone involved for a really terrific time, and best of all the chance to share the stage with the delightful and talented Mr. Marcus as my wife. Marcus and I are still trying to figure out why he always ends up in a dress at the end of the show.

The wonderful weather was also a plus for voting day for Emperor and Empress straight through Coronation week, giving our out-of-town visitors the perfect weather our city is rumored to be known for.

Stepping down as Emperor and Empress were Patrick and



No write-in ballots were allowed in the voting for Emperor and Empress (Photo: S. Martin)

Tina, Patrick being visibly pleased to have it at an end by having Menage provide the background with the Hallelujah Chorus for his last walk. Tina chose a version of "Thanks for the Memories," and yes, I do believe that is what she felt. It is more than likely that, after a well-deserved break, we will see these two working and participating in many new projects within our community.

Embarking on their year as Emperor and Empress are Steve Rascher and Lily Street, two people who definitely have strong ideas on which direction their year will take to continue the tradition. Tradition should be carried on, and I shall be there to support these two as they start new traditions that will be incorporated and handed down as part of their legacy.

It seems people tend to forget the other candidates rather quickly. However, I don't think anyone will soon forget Stanley Boyd, Billy Ray, Vinnie Russell, or Patsy Recline and the many innovations their particular campaigns thrust upon the scene. I am honored to have had the chance to have gotten to know all of these people a lot better, and some a little bit too much, but I do know all of these candidates spoke very highly of dedication to the community. We have been lucky—I think they all meant it.

The names are already flying around at a fast and furious pace, mine included, as to who will be taking on the challenge next year. A bit of advice to any aspirant is that you should try walking a mile in the shoes of any of the candidates who have just finished this race. It's a lot tougher than it looks!

Congratulations to those in charge of the event for having a precise time schedule, and having the talent to adhere to it. The Coronation averaged at least five minutes ahead of time—it can be done!

Suzie, Anna-Mae, Desiree-Li, Jacqueline, Bobette, Joe Tolbe, and Steve Sanders, all Wongs, but all right, will be starring in the all new Suzie Wong, Year of the Dragon, Chinese New Years this Friday evening at Kimo's. The party will begin at 8:30 p.m.

with the show getting underway around 9:45 p.m. They are requesting a \$2 donation, or more if you prefer, for the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and that is a mere pittance compared to the party these revelers can put together. As I now have that evening free, chances are I'll be there.

Saturday night the Cable Car Awards will take place at the Gift-center, with some tickets still available at Headlines, and you can also get them at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. The entertainment is always super at these affairs, and the crowd is worthy of even the fussiest people watchers.

And now a word about our sponsor.

Do you feel run down, in need of excitement, looking for talent, perhaps a few laughs, a way to help Open Hand? If the answer is yes to any of these questions then you should definitely drop by the Mint this Sunday afternoon for my birthday party in honor of my 32nd B-day, and also a benefit for Open Hand. My entertainment coordinator for this soiree (Ever get the feeling that I like that word?) will be Danny Williams, and he has managed to persuade Marga Gomez, Scott Johnston, Samm Gray, Bob Sandner, Trixi, Tatiana, and others to stop by and do guest spots during the party, which goes from 4 'til 9 p.m. I am excited, and I do hope you will stop by. There is a \$5 donation requested, and we will be having drawings throughout the party for various prizes.

I now know that getting older is a blessing. I'm glad I have been given the chance to do so!

My real birthdate is March 1, but I like to get people out on Sundays, and after that I will be going to L.A. for the next weekend, and then it will most likely be the Coits Skidazzle on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of March — \$128 for a fab weekend with some totally groovy people who like having a wild and zany time. Interested? If so call either Stan Boyd at 626-4726 or Chuck Demmon at 824-6114 and they will take care of you pronto.

The Tavern Guild will hold its (Continued on next page)

Karl's Calendar

Compiled by Diedre

THURSDAY 2/25

Mr. April Bare Chest Contest, S.F. Eagle, 10 p.m.

Feathers 'N Flesh Show, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

FRIDAY 2/26

Suzie Wong Chinese New Year Party, Kimo's, 8:30 p.m., \$2 donation, show 9:45 p.m. starring Gang of Seven, benefit AIDS Foundation Food Bank.

Constantine's Serving "Connie Dogs," S.F. Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (large and juicy).

SATURDAY 2/27

PAWS Volunteers' Meeting, Most Holy Redeemer Church School Cafeteria, 10 a.m.-12 noon, phone 861-1777 for more information.

Cable Car Awards and Show, Giftcenter, 8 p.m., \$10-\$25, on sale at Headlines.

Winter Bartenders' Bash, Trocadero Transfer, 10 p.m. 'til dawn, \$5 with bartender invitation, \$10 general admission.

SUNDAY 2/28

Band Foundation Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Mark Friese 32nd Birthday Party, The Mint, 4-9 p.m., \$5 donation, benefit Project Open Hand, entertainment coordinator Danny Williams.

Cabaret Night, Galleon, 5 p.m., \$6 cover, Irene Soderberg, 8 p.m., \$6 cover, Dell Madill.

Darcelle & Co. Show, Kimo's, 10 p.m. and midnight, \$6.

MONDAY 2/29

Darcelle & Co. Show, Kimo's, 10 p.m. and midnight, \$6.

TUESDAY 3/1

Tavern Guild Meeting, Gangway, 1 p.m.

Leather Drawings, S.F. Eagle, five drawings per night starting at 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 3/2

Class Acts Contest, Sutter's Mill, 8 p.m., \$1 cover, benefit Friends for Friends.

THURSDAY 3/3

Feathers 'N Flesh Show, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

Friese

(Continued from previous page)

next meeting Tuesday, March 1, at Gilmore's. This meeting will take place some time around 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8, will be their monthly zodiac party. This will obviously be in honor of Pisces, and it will start at 8 p.m. with a 50/50 raffle, and a free drink for all Pisces (with I.D.). This zodiac party, along with the next three, will be benefits for Project Open Hand.

Wednesday the 9th the Mint and Image Leather will present a leather fashion show at 8 p.m., with the master of ceremonies being Russ Bono, who just happens to be the head tailor at Image Leather.

Press on! That seems to be sound advice.

Opera

(Continued from page 26)

ruptly, rapidly transformed Lyric Opera into one of the leading opera producers in the United States and is now hailed as the Wonder Woman of American Opera. The moral of the story? Never underestimate the power of an executive secretary!

So much for the list of potential candidates. What lies in store for the person who gets the job? Although the company finished 1987 in the black, the challenges confronting the

San Francisco Opera are awesome. McEwen's successor must rebuild the company's credibility with its subscribers, the public and the press as well as with patrons, foundations, artistic managers, General Directors and many other people in the professional opera community. S/he must formulate a game plan which will protect the company from being held hostage by the whims of international operatic superstars who threaten to cancel their engagements every time the dollar weakens on foreign markets.

The board must quickly

replace Sir John Pritchard with a Music Director who is not only a better conductor, but more in tune with 20th century opera (my personal recommendation would be Richard Buckley, the former Music Director of the Oakland Symphony, who has a solid track record of operatic achievements).

And, just as our society can no longer afford to invest in the image of a 1950s-style nuclear family, the San Francisco Opera must relinquish the heart-warming image of what it once was but no longer is and face the future head-on. Certain changes, some of which are almost systemic in

nature, need to be undertaken if this company is to survive and continue to break new ground.

Here are several suggestions for the future:

- While it would be foolish to attempt to revive the Summer Festival which McEwen so effectively axed, the company could reposition its season so that it started in mid-July and ran through the first weekend in December. This revised time slot would keep its musicians employed for a longer period of performing weeks, take the company out of direct competition with the

(Continued on next page)

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Opera

(Continued from previous page)

San Francisco Symphony, permit it to cash in on the summer tourist trade, allow for the inclusion of additional repertoire and prevent the War Memorial Opera House from remaining dark for three solid months. Sacrificing one week's time in the Opera House during December would allow the San Francisco Ballet to add some very lucrative performances of *Nutcracker* to its schedule. The people who complain the loudest about such a reformatting of the season will no doubt be those who look forward to opening night for its fashion show rather than as an operatic event. Fuck 'em. Their social calendar has already been preempted by the San Francisco Symphony's opening night which, ever since the Symphony moved into Davies Hall, has preceded the Opera's. Besides, these people rarely show up during the rest of the season.

- In order to regain its reputation as an operatic pioneer, the San Francisco Opera must embark on a plan of commissioning new works on a regular basis. The first composer to be approached with a commission should be Stephen Sondheim.

It would be nice to think that the San Francisco Opera's board of directors understood the problems and challenges which currently face it but, when Terry McEwen was named General

Director, his appointment was a mere rubber stamp of Kurt Herbert Adler's personal choice for a successor. At McEwen's Feb. 9 press conference, Bob Commanday asked several probing questions about the qualifications and plans of the board's search committee (a group whose actions resemble a parody of the blind leading the blind). Unless some dramatic changes are made, the same job-search scenario which gave us Terry McEwen could easily repeat itself, leaving the San Francisco Opera with a General Director who functions as a caretaker manager rather than with someone who has an artistic vision that can steer the company into the next century.

Unlike many regional opera companies (which have been forced to build activist boards of directors in order to survive) the San Francisco Opera's board remains severely under-educated about the industry in which its particular organization functions. Even more shocking is the fact that, in an age when most board members of nonprofit organizations must meet minimum levels of contribution, the people who sit on the San Francisco Opera's board are appallingly under-invested in the corporation whose future rests in their hands.

This board now has an incredible opportunity to shape the future of a corporation whose annual operating budget is approximately \$22 million. Let's all pray that they don't fuck it up! ●

Karr

(Continued from page 30)

mirator for it. With three or four thematically unfocused and melodically drifting exceptions out of 21 songs, this is excellent theatre music, ranging in style from unabashed Broadway through echoes of Brel, Sondheim, Weill and even Manhattan Transfer. It's a colorful and stimulating sound palette.

The performances are the best San Francisco has to offer, and have deepened with repetition—after six weeks at the Plush Room, the show is now well past its 100th performance and at the City Cabaret. Anne Tofflemire is lovely in ballads and deft in comedy, and Mara Finerty is the local Barbara Cook, while Scott Rankine remains the most appreciable singing performer in town. He's grown in nuance, sophistication, and richness of voice, and presents in *Bittersuite* nasty satire, broad comedy, some razzzy showbiz turns and touching emotional depths.

A new cast member is Russ Grieve, replacing Rick Roemer and proving how much I'd taken the latter for granted. Grieve, a handsome man with twinkling eyes and just enough age on his face to be a romantic figure, is instantly wearying with his generic cabaret approach. He misses the terror of sexual desperation in *John's Song*, and the pathos possible in the school nerd's difficulties at the *Twentieth Reunion* are reduced to cheap laughs at the character's expense; stupid glasses and a hick hair-do are the extent of Grieve's characterization.

He's successful with the cheap and tawdry fun of *Narcissism Rag*, but it's a swell song which doesn't require a singer to go beneath its obvious surface. It's possible that the singer, new to the show for its City Cabaret run, will grow into the material. He sounds and looks swell. I might have liked him more if he showed some basket, for he offers lit-

tle of real substance to grasp onto; he's synthetic amidst a cast that is both sizzling and sincere. Even so, I can recommend the show for its repertory of songs. Without a cast album, all we can do is to hear them several times over. (771-6900).

★ ★ ★

I remember my parents screaming their dire fear to their 13-year-old fruitson that I'd be lonely and depressed when I was old. I assured them (confirmed queer that I was even then) that I had no intention of fulfilling their vision of elder gays, and it's been interesting for me to watch for some time now how a maturing generation of post-Stonewall gays are replacing the stereotypes once forced upon us. One evidence of this is *Swan* magazine, a publication, "dedicated to the celebration and pursuit of the Silver Centaur."

"Swan," reads its manifesto, "is committed to providing nurturing fantasies, entertainment and helpful articles for the well-being and dignity of all gay seniors and those who love and care for them." The magazine is definitely a grass-roots effort, published on a home computer, but well-done and neat for that.

I have the February 1988 issue; it's not hard-core, like a previous issue was and an upcoming issue will be. It includes real-life letters from readers, hard-on fiction of varying quality, and hard-on photos of several over-50 readers/models.

There's some hot drawings, a long section of personal ads, and more photos. All of the contents explore, depict and celebrate the erotic potential of senior gays. I'll repeat that it's neither slick nor glossy, but that's one of its virtues—it's real, and I think there's a large group of guys just waiting for it. If you're interested, write Swan, Suite 1-14, 181 S. Civic Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

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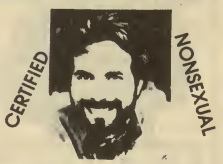
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Healthy and Wonderful

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society Builds Good Bodies

by Mary Richards

They were at Gay Games II, their muscled bodies glistening under the spotlights, assuming the disciplined poses that their music seemed to be made for. The night the gay and lesbian bodybuilders performed was one of the most talked about events of the Games. From that evening, a group has emerged dedicated to keeping alive the spirit of their beginnings: they call themselves the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society (ABS).

George Birimisa has a twinkle in his eye and wears an earring in his ear. He just turned 66 and has cause to celebrate: he is co-chair of ABS, which recently incorporated as an organization to bring new energy to the gay sports community in San Francisco.

For George it all started with Gay Games II and an older gay man who thought he might have a chance to enter as a bodybuilder.

"When the bodybuilding came along," George says, "I said, what the hell, I'm going to do it. (Tom Waddell) says it's for everybody—I'm going to take him up on it!" He laughs in reminiscence of that beginning, and the night he found himself at Civic Auditorium, posing in what can only be called 'skinny' attire, before 5,000 people.

Although George had been involved in the theatre in New York as a playwright and actor, he recalls that evening as giving him a deeper satisfaction "than any of the plays I'd ever done in New York—because somehow there was an acceptance of me.

"It was such an incredibly glorious feeling that I thought 'there's not going to be another Gay Games for four years, and we're onto something here that's more than bodybuilding. This is a whole community thing that's happening, and it's healthy, and it's wonderful, and it's all gay people meeting in this marvelous atmosphere.'



George Birimisa

Physique '87 was what they were onto, and last year it was a tremendous success. Now it is planned every June for the day preceding the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade.

But for the women and men who dedicate themselves to the sport of bodybuilding, it couldn't end there, and George explains why. "We wanted to be more than Physique '87 or '88," he says. "We wanted to be a force in the gay community, a force for health. So we formed the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society."

Throughout the year, ABS will have bodybuilding seminars which will concentrate on some of the disciplines involved in the sport: Workout Routines, Nutrition, Posing and Contest Preparation. In the fall they are planning to organize a gay health fair.

It may be a 'first' for the Bay Area.

BIGGER

Men and women from across the nation and from Canada will converge on San Francisco for this year's Physique '88, which has now become recognized as the national gay bodybuilding championships. "Hopefully," George says, "in the future we'll have contestants from around the world, because this is something whose time has come. And it's going to get bigger and bigger."

The amount of contestants will undoubtedly grow, but the ABS committee of 13, five of them women, will remain the same. Kitty Tsui is one of those women, the one who appeared onstage at Gay Games II standing next to George Birimisa. The bond that the two bodybuilders formed has brought Kitty to the position of co-chair of ABS.

Kitty came from Hong Kong in 1968, and grew up not liking gym class or team sports. But working in an office can make a body feel pretty lethargic, and Kitty was no exception. She joined an old-fashioned gym in Oakland and began to realize that things in her life were changing. "I enjoyed seeing my progress," she explains. "I enjoyed being able to lift heavier and heavier weights—it was a great challenge. And I remember distinctly that I began to feel a lot better mentally. I just felt very good about myself."

On the advice of doctors, Kitty had to give up her training for a few years. Then, three months before Gay Games II, and after the loss of a beloved friend to breast cancer, she turned once again to the sport that had challenged her in the past—bodybuilding.

"I decided that I just had to do it as a goal," Kitty says. Her goal was reached when she stood on stage to accept a Bronze Medal

(Continued on next page)



Kriss Brooks and Ed Brown perform a posing routine

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

BOWLING

Randy Peterson Breaks Slump With 682 Series

by Richard McPherson

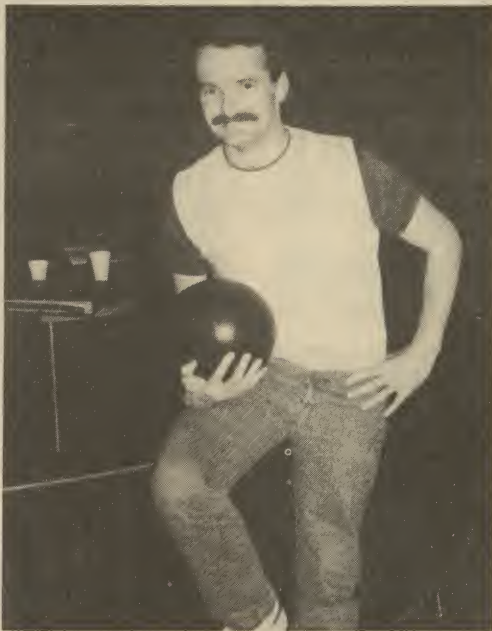
Randy Peterson came out of his two-month slump in real style in the Wednesday Tavern Guild League (TGL) at Park Bowl on Feb. 3, shooting 209, 269, 204 for a 682 series. The next evening he came back with a 204 and 224 in the Thursday TGL. Randy (182 average) bowls for Play With It, Ltd., a team which has been bowling up a storm the past couple of weeks (last week they shot a 1036 five-man team game). Teammate Tom Sipple (187 avg.) shot 199, 227, 213/639 the same evening.

Angelo Maggio (182) had a hot night on Monday, Feb. 1, shooting 227, 217/623 in the Trios, then a 236, 240/640 in the Monday TGL later that night.

Other 600s shot at Park Bowl the week of Feb. 1-4 in the TGL's: David Birch (174) 216, 206/608; Keith Ray 203, 214/607; Tim Mulvenon (175) 237/605.

The 215+ games were shot by: Ron Squires (167) 241; Adrian Stenson (166) 233; David Arnold (192) 231; Tom Sipple (187) 227; Darrel Johnson (147) 226; Dion Cessna (170) 222; Peter Bassford (167) 221; George Carrico (181) 218; Glen Terrio (176) 217.

Barry Cummings tops the Honorable Mention list (160 and under average) with a 217, way



Randy Peterson

(Photo: Rink)

over his 138 average. He was followed by Ralph Osborn (138) 213. Others on the list include:

Kevin Stern (147) 211; Nick Kanost (144) 208; Ron Haynes (136) 202; Robert Montaldo (155) 200; Lloyd Franklin (151) 205. Franklin, who recently turned 77 is a non-gay bowler who has been bowling in the TGL's for 14 years. [Watch for his story here, soon.] Petrina Leclair (148) had the high game for the women bowlers

in the TGL's with a 212.

Bowlers shooting two 200's in a three game set: Doug Litwin (184 avg.) 205, 211; Dan Mannon (161) 216, 200; Greg Hulliger (171) 211, 214.

Debbie Carmona, 192 average, was once again the top shooter in the S.F. Women's Business League for 2/7 blasting out a 268 game enroute to a 648 series. She was followed by Bernice Straub, 165 avg., shooting 223, 212/593. Other 200+ games: Kerry Robshaw (157) 214; Mona Tong (157) 203/554; Barbara Andisman (148) 201.

Are we surprised to hear that David Arnold had high series at Japantown Bowl the week of 2/7 to 2/12? A 231, 209/624 keeps his average ever on the increase. It's at 195 now at JTown. Dave Thomas (152 avg.) had a 236 game and Dan Burley (166) had a 225 during the same week.

Honorable Mention (under 160 avg.): Bob Bryan (152) 209; Peter Padilla (158) 206; Bob Dean (151) 205; David Peterson (155) 203; Steve Miller (124) 202; Brad Nemeth (150) 201. Bowlers shooting two 200's were Ray Padua (164) 200, 204 and Hunter Bauman (172) 209, 209.

No gossip to report this week, it seems that my sources have temporarily dried up a bit. I'll see what I can dig up for next week.

Feb. 20 through 27 is the team event portion of the SF City Men's Tournament. Good luck to all bowlers who enter.

Arcadia

(Continued from previous page)

for her bodybuilding performance at the Games. "Just to see the audience applauding and yelling, not for just the first person, or the second person, but for the very last person who came in, was really overwhelming."

"When you do your 60-second routine, that's when you get a chance to show off all your work. It's not about training at the gym, really, it's about performing before an audience. I felt like I became a different person. I've done a lot of public performing (as a writer and an actor), but when you take off your clothes, that's you. You can't hide anything, you have no props."

Being a part of ABS for Kitty is "a way of giving back to the community. I want to encourage the bodybuilding lifestyle, as a very healthy way of being and looking at your body and loving yourself. I feel like bodybuilding is a way in which you can really reverse the stereotypes and say 'women are powerful, women are strong, women are beautiful.'"

"For me one of the most important things about bodybuilding for competition is not to be as big and as muscular as possible, but to become symmetrical. To develop your weak parts and to shape the parts that are strong, and the bigger parts, so that you're a symmetrical body."

The gay community will have the opportunity to see all this symmetry in June, at Physique '88. That night another 'first' will happen in San Francisco: along with the mixed pairs of performers (men and women), same sex pairs will take to the stage.

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES Team Standings

S.F. WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE		W	L
1. Mona Tong Realty	50	14	
2. Park Bowl	38	26	
3. Geraldine's Caterers	36	28	
4. Bowldykes	36	28	
5. Cafe Commons	35½	28½	
6. Express Comp. Sup.	35	29	
7. Maud's Squad	35	29	
8. Better Natural	35	29	
9. Sidney's Pinheads	32	32	
10. Olive Oils	31	33	
11. Artemis	30	34	
12. Faenza/White	30	34	
13. Cassidy's Cabinets	30	34	
14. Awards by Chris	29½	34½	
15. About Paper Plus	27½	36½	
16. Amelia's	27½	36½	
17. Brite Shine Janit	21	43	
18. Francois Coffee Hse	17	47	

MONDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE		W	L
1. Pilsner Pinguins	53½	18½	
2. Park Bowl	49	23	
3. Stayin' Alive	49	23	
4. Rolo's	45½	26½	
5. Frantic Finishers	41	31	
6. Pet Stop Cocktails	38	34	
7. Kokpit Pacers	37	35	
8. Pilsner Powerpuffs	36	36	
9. Play with it LTD	36	36	
10. Twisted Pins	36	36	
11. Is It Over Yet	36	36	
12. Pendulum	33	39	
13. Lambda Capital	33	39	
14. Bar Breakers	33	39	
15. Welcome Home	32½	39½	
16. Rawhide II	32	40	
17. Trax Stars	31	41	
18. Rawhide II Too!	31	41	
19. Castro Station	30	42	
20. Jack Trux	29½	42½	
21. C C Cotillion	28	44	
22. Pendulum II	19	53	

WEDNESDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE		W	L
1. Pilsner Pinguins	49	19	
2. Pilsner Quackers	47½	20½	
3. Pendulum Pandas	47	21	
4. Leftovers	45	23	
5. Pendulum Pieces	43½	24½	
6. All American Bowlers	41	27	
7. Rams Head Bar	40	28	
8. Pilsnerds	39	29	
9. Bow-K	38	30	
10. Park Bowl	34	34	
11. Gutter Girls	33	35	
12. Play with it, LTD	32	36	

13. Pilsner Easy Pickup	32	36
14. Rams and Ewe	31	37
15. Pilsner I	28	40
16. Pilsner Puitles Sisters	28	40
17. Schmidt & Schmidt	27	41
18. 9 Eyes Only	27	41
19. S. F. Eagle	27	44
20. Galleon	24	44
21. DK's Unmentnabls	24	44
22. Bedrockers	5	63

THURSDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE		W	L
1. Belden 22	45	19	
2. Pilsner 4 Play	42	22	
3. Play With It Ltd.	41	23	
4. Still Just Trax	40½	23½	
5. Park Bowl	38	26	
6. Woo Woos	35	29	
7. Styles & Stamen	35	29	
8. Trixie's Tricks	35	29	
9. Trax Trash	34	30	
10. Team Eight	33½	30½	
11. S.F. Eagle	33	31	
12. American Pie	33	31	
13. Confused Ones	32	32	
14. Strike Force	30	34	
15. Wild Balls	27½	36½	
16. R A C Rodies	27	37	
17. Honeymooners	25½	38½	
18. Paradise Lounge	17	47	

TAVERN GUILD TRIOS		W	L
1. S.F. Eagle	49½	22½	
2. Pilsner Pin Palls	48	24	
3. Main Course	45	27	
4. Bow-K	43½	28½	
5. Galaxy	43	29	
6. Bill's Quackers	49	32	
7. Clayton Cavaliers	40	32	
8. Pilsner Pinguins	39	33	
9. Spare Parts	39	33	
10. Cafe San Marcos	38	34	
11. Capricorn Coffee	36½	35½	
12. And I do windows	36½	35½	
13. Best of Breed	35	37	
14. O My Mi	33	39	
15. Underpinnings	32	40	
16. Bloomin' Flowers	31½	40½	
17. Hanna's Sisters	30½	41½	
18. Strike Force	29½	42½	
19. Pet Shop	28½	43½	
20. Park Bowl	25	47	
21. Alcatraz Fed. BBS	25	47	
22. Pilsner Pin-Ups	20	52	

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SJ Volleyball Tourney Saturday

by Rick Thoman

The Second Annual San Jose Invitational Gay Volleyball Tournament will be held this Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at San Jose High School.

Last year, four teams participated in the inaugural tournament, which was won by the San Francisco City Islanders. This year eight teams have signed up to compete for the title (four from San Francisco, two from San Jose, one from Sacramento, and one from Santa Cruz), which the San Francisco City Islanders will be back to defend.

According to San Francisco City Islanders' team captain Mike Bulawit, the San Jose tournament is "a nice tune-up event. The rivalry between these Northern California teams is spirited, but friendly. Last year's tournament was a lot of fun and we're glad San Jose is putting it on again this year."

The San Francisco City Islanders are coming off a second place finish at the 10th annual San Diego Gay Volleyball tournament last November and are busy preparing for the National Gay



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

"First you lick my boots."



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Volleyball Tournament to be held in Montreal in May.

All four San Francisco teams are a part of San Francisco Club Volleyball which meets every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at Collingwood Gym (behind Cala). As Bulawit explained, "We take the first 21 players that show up and play until 11:30. New players should be aware that we don't meet on the first Saturday of each month due to the gym being closed."

For more information regarding San Francisco Club Volleyball, contact Bulawit at 731-2056.

Team San Francisco will hold its first meeting of 1988 on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. at Amelia's, 647 Valencia Street.

Team San Francisco is coordinating a united San Francisco representation for the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver. It is currently trying to set up a network of the various gay and lesbian athletic organizations in the community to encourage greater participation in sports activities as well as the Gay Games.

The Steering Committee will be presenting the By-Laws they have been working on since the last Team San Francisco meeting (in October, 1987). Other topics for discussion will be membership qualifications and fees. Anyone interested in getting involved in San Francisco's team for Gay Games III as an athlete or non-athlete is encouraged to attend. For more information, call 558-8282.

BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. No Shows	13	3
2. Brand X	10	6
3. Missing Persons	10	6
4. Split Sisters	9½	6½
5. SF Band Fndtn	9	7
6. Rumlbers	8	8
7. Loft In Space	8	8
8. Five Easy Pieces	8	8
9. Barb's Team	7	9
10. Debutantes	5½	10½
11. Stationaires	5	11
12. Bench and Bar	3	13

12. E Z Pick Up	4	12
13. Pilsner Tux n Tails	3	13
14. More Hits thn Misses	0	16

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Double Trouble	6	2
2. Urasis Dragon	5	3
3. Bowl 'R Brains	5	3
4. Hard Times	5	3
5. Lois' Lane	4	8
6. Tropical Teeezers	4	4
7. Eruptions	4	4
8. Easy Leis	3	5
9. Ball Busters	3	5
10. Hi Bound	3	1
11. Earth Mothers	3	1
12. Bulldogettes	2	6
13. Haleakala Hookers	1	3
14. Moby Dick Wailers	0	0

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Chuckie's Angels	14	2
2. Tender Vittles	13	7
3. A.I.M. Sluts	13	7
4. Bobby Pins	11	9
5. Giraffe	10	10
6. Swaying Palms	10	10
7. Pinups	9	11
8. Twin Peaks	8	12
9. Radcliffs Rebels	8	12
10. Strikettes	8	12
11. Still Hoping	7	9
12. Firecrackers	2	18

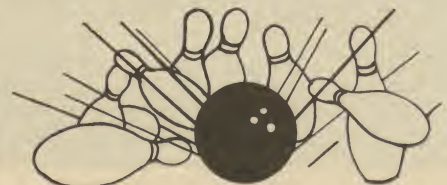
SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Tidy Bowlers	7	1
2. Remember Us?	6	2
3. Bob's Big Boys	6	2
4. Diner Dogs	6	2
5. Phabulaz 4	5	3
6. Strike Force	5	3
7. Natalie Deadwoods	4	4
8. Sassy	4	4
9. Alley Cats	4	4
10. Jackpot	4	4
11. 4 Many Reasons	3	5
12. Beef Strokinoffs	3	1
13. Firebird Sweets	3	1
14. Pin Us Down	2	6
15. 5-Pin-Anybody?	2	6
16. Great Balls of Fire	2	6
17. Bouncing Balls	2	6
18. Bad Lucky Boys	0	8

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Mother's Lode	14	2
2. Kingpin Honies	13	3
3. SF Band & T. Corps	13	3
4. Rawhd Balls n Hand	12	4
5. Lois Laners	11	5
6. Play With It LTD	9	7
7. Parakeet Lounge	9	7
8. 14 Karat Jewels	7	9
9. AEF Maulers	6	10
10. Ball Doctors	6	10
11. Helen Beds	5	11

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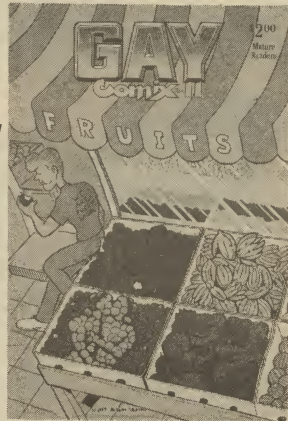
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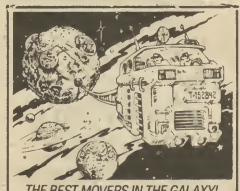
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